

Re:Birth

リバース

上位世界から下位世界へ

小林 譽

kobayashi takashi



転生したのはゲーム要素満載のファンタジー世界!

上位世界(地球)の青年が新天地で

最強魔剣士!

天性の驚異的成長力を見せつける!

ALPHAPOLIS
アルファポリス

Webで
2700万PV突破!
異世界ファンタジーの
大本命!

Reincarnation ~ From the Upper World to the Lower World

Vol. 1

by Kobayashi Takashi

[Novel Updates](#)

Epub : [TrolloWN/LN EPUB](#)

Chapter 1 – Reincarnation

Clambering down the boisterous down town area, my face sank. The reason? I, Sanada Nobushige, will be turning 30 this year, from that point on i will no longer be young, but middle-aged.

My last name “Sanada” wasn’t chosen by chance, as i have history buff parents, they named me after a famous general during WWII. Though i fail to live up to that name. (TLN: General Sanada)

In the sports place where i was working, parties were held frequently.

The end of year party is also being held here. With employees sharing drinks, singing and fooling around. I couldn’t match the atmosphere and so retreated to my own corner.

The director didn’t seem to like my attitude and told me to [“Do something funny”]. but i found that unreasonable.

What do you think when people ask what your hobbies are? I usually tell people anime, novels and games, i’m an Otaku. Not wanting to ruin the atmosphere, i was worried about what to do. I couldn’t disobey an order from the director.

I couldn’t think of anything after all, so i decided to sing a song from a popular television series. I’m not a good singer at all, when i finished i could feel cold eyes on my back.

I looked at the face of the director to see if that was okay, but he was floating a nasty smile.

Shit! why did i have to go through such a thing?

The end of year party was coming to a close, so i gave my fellow colleagues a sidelong glance and hurried home.

I buy beer and snacks at a nearby convenience store and walk towards the apartment complex where i live. I open my beer and take sip whilst doing so.

At that time, i felt something strange and the ground beneath my feet disappeared. Although, i don't understand why such a thing has happened? Was i disorientated because of the beer? No, there was no manhole lid on the ground where i always walk.

[Eh?]

I fell into the hole and almost instantly lost consciousness.

.....after that, i noticed i was in a room six tatami wide, strangely there was neither a door nor a window. Something that seems to be a fluorescent light is shining over me, the room looks like a spaceship from some sort of anime.

Because i couldn't understand the situation, for the time being i decided to examine the room for some sort of exit. Suddenly a woman's voice was heard.

[Welcome, to the room of reincarnation]

[Ha?]

What did she say? Reincarnation? Isn't that the thing that often happens in light novels? Did i die?

[I can understand your doubt, but for now you must think of yourself as dead. Luckily, you have been given the chance to reincarnate]

Are you serious? Why would someone like me get that chance? Although i used to dream about such a thing happening, nothing ever came of it. However, what a stupid way to die. Falling down a manhole.

[It was not a manhole that you fell in, it was one of the many connections to the lower world that exist]

Lower world? I don't understand.

[Simply put. The world is split into several layers. Aren't world renowned geniuses rare in your world? Those people have been reincarnated from a higher layer to a lower one]

So the people who left their names behind in history, the inventor, the politician, the general and the artist. They were all reincarnated people? That's such a cheat.

[When a person reincarnates from a higher world to a lower world, they can choose which world to go to. Because you fell into a lower world, you have the

ability to choose also. What do you desire?]

Although i was initially confused, apparently it has already been decided that i would go to the other world. I would like to go to a world with swords and magic. There, i could be peerless.

[I’m retrieving it, please wait a moment.... I have found something. The world called “Acadia” matches your request. There exists human, demi-humans and something called a demon. The civilisation level is about 1,000 years earlier than the present day Earth.]

[That sounds good]

If there’s only one, i can’t do much deciding anyway.

[That talk is concluded. I will now read out your basic stats 『Power』, 『Speed』, 『Dexterity』, 『Defense』, 『Wisdom』, 『Luck』, aside from the offensive power, the defensive power and magic power are affected respectively. Your current status is like this.] (TLN: Sorry sound a little weird, I’ll re-edit when i get a better translation)

Suddenly, a status screen appears out of thin air. It looks like the message window in an Eroge, i got excited for a moment.

Level 1

HP 18/18

MP 8/8

Power 5

Speed 4

Dexterity 3

Defense 3

Wisdom 4

Luck 2

Skills possessed:

None

Yes. It's low, nevertheless it seems to look like a certain famous RPG? By chance the person that made this.....no, i'd better drop it.

[Next, please choose a skill. You can choose from the following.]

『HP Improvement』

『MP Improvement』

『Power Improvement』

『Speed Improvement』

『Dexterity Improvement』

『Wisdom Improvement』

『Defense Improvement』

『Luck Improvement』

『Experience Improvement』

[There’s not that many]

[Because it is only the beginning. As you level up you can acquire derivation skills. Moreover, when you level up you can gain a new skill. This choice is just for your first skill, which one do you choose?]

What should i do? I should raise attack and defense if i want to protect my body, but i was interested in the experience value boost as well. Although, if there is an upper bound to levels, i won’t really need that skill.

[Is there an upper bound to levels?]

[There is none, how strong you become is up to you]

Then it’s decided. It will be tough in the beginning, but it will really help out later on.

[I would like the experience boost]

[Understood. Your skill has been acquired]

Level 1

HP 18/18

MP 8/8

Power 5

Speed 4

Dexterity 3

Defense 3

Wisdom 4

Luck 2

Skills possessed:

Experience Boost: Level 1

It's level 1, so skills have levels as well.

[Next, please choose an environment in which to reincarnate. Aristocrat, commoner, prosperous or poor. You can start from a baby, or from having grown up before hand. By the way, the only race you can choose is human]

That's disappointing. I wanted to be born a good looking elf.

[Is there any difference in the chosen environment?]

[If you choose a disadvantageous environment, you will gain a privilege]

What? That's terrible.

[What privilege?]

[It's a secret]

So i'm not being told everything.

[Then family isn't necessary. I want to be 15 years old. Also, please make the environment one which is easy to level up in]

To call strangers mother and father would be too difficult. It's also troublesome to start again from a child.

[What will your name be?]

Perhaps having a Japanese name will stand out, i don't want to draw any attention to myself...

[Est] (TLN: changed the name a second time)

I took the name from a motorcycle. I only have to use the name when introducing myself anyway.

[Understood. Then this is the end. Do you have any questions?]

It seemed too simple, but there was one thing i was worried about.

[Are you God?]

[I am the system built between worlds. Though the manager is called God, i am different. Then, please enjoy your new life.]

I was engulfed in light.

Chapter 2 – New Life

When the light settled, i was in a forest. As i hurriedly checked my body, i confirmed that my height and eye level were lower than usual. I’m also dressed in a thick robe made of leather, on my waist i’m equipped with a dagger.

I stroke my face, it’s shape doesn’t seem unusual. Perhaps i still look the same.

Next, i decide to check my status. Without saying anything, i wished for the status to be displayed. Suddenly, it appeared.

Level 1

HP 18/18

MP 8/8

Power 5

Speed 4

Dexterity 3

Defense 3

Wisdom 4

Luck 2

Skills possessed:

Experience Boost: Level 1

Ok. The next thing to do is to confirm my personal belongings. I seem to have something like a croaker sack on my waist, there was some bronze and silver coins in it. (TN: A croaker sack is essentially a burlap bag)

There also seems to be a bag with dried meat and water in. Looks like I don't have to worry about starving to death for a while.

I tried to put a stone in the bag, but it just seems to be a regular bag. It wasn't something like a item box. I wonder if that type of thing is covered by a skill?

Anyway, time to start my new life. I'll try and enjoy various things. I have to look for a place to act as a base first. I'd likely reach a highway if i crossed the forest.

.....that's what i thought. The road hasn't come into view, i haven't even encountered a single animal. I also haven't seen a monster yet, even though i had wished for an area where i could level up easily.

I was tired, so i ate some of the food whilst resting against a tree. I also took a swig of water whilst eating. It doesn't taste very good, but i can't complain. Because i don't know when i'll find more food and water, i have to save it as much as possible.

As i got up to leave, i suddenly heard a rustling in a nearby bush. Then, a block of liquid the size of a persons head flew towards me.

I dodge in a panic and take some distance. I whip the dagger out from my waist with my trembling hands. I don't know how to use a sword, but i have no choice but to go in blind.

Block of liquid....so this is a slime, it's covered in green. Is that it's nucleus? it looks like a red stone. It would most likely die if i destroy that.

The surrounding green parts of its body most likely melt clothes. I would love to see a scene where a female knight fights it. The monsters status was displayed as i thought this.

{Slime Level 1}

Hey! can i only see the name and level!? But if the level is the same, i may be able to beat it somehow. I make up my mind and slash at the slime. As i'm still a novice swordsman, it was more of a bash than a slash.

However, i only hit the green part. It was torn a little, but the slime jumps up and counter attacks. I tried to avoid it, but i was hit on the shoulder and blown away.

[Gwa!]

I was thinking superficially. When i actually thought about it, if a bucket of water the size of this guy is thrown at a person, it would cause serious injury.

When i tried to stand up, the slime charged again. Without even aiming, i swung the sword wildly.

It seems i was lucky, i felt the sound of something hard being crushed. I looked down at the slime and confirmed it's nucleus had been destroyed. I sat down feeling relieved as my status was displayed.

Level 2

HP 24/24

MP 12/12

Power 8

Speed 7

Dexterity 6

Defense 5

Wisdom 6

Luck 3

Skills possessed:

Experience Boost: Level 1

Fencing: Level 1

I increased my level by defeating one slime? Moreover, i gained the fencing skill. It seems to be a multi-purpose skill, usable with all types of sword. I'll have to confirm it when i get a new weapon.

I think my bodies strength grew a little, but i can't actually feel a change?

I was worried that HP and MP wouldn't recover. When the level goes up, it apparently recovers completely. With this, my probability of dying during battle falls.

Only the nucleus of the slime seems to have remained, the liquid part of it's body is absorbed into the ground. I wonder if this phenomenon is common to all demons, i was curious.

I put the nucleus in my bag, it might have some value.

I made it through my first battle. I'm going to aim to get stronger. For now i need to find a way out of this forest.

Chapter 3 – Level up

After my struggle during the fight with the slime, i no longer knew which direction i came from, so i decided to walk in a straight line for the time being.

Along the way i encountered two slimes of the same type and i managed to defeat them, causing my level to rise.

Est: Level 3

HP 31/31

MP 18/18

Power 11

Speed 10

Dexterity 9

Defense 8

Wisdom 8

Luck 5

Skills Possessed:

【Experience Boost: Level 1】

【Fencing: Level 1】

【A new skill can be acquired. Please choose from amongst the following:】

【(HP improvement)】

【(MP improvement)】

【(Power improvement)】

【(Speed improvement)】

【(Dexterity improvement)】

【(Defense improvement)】

【(Wisdom improvement)】

【(Luck improvement)】

Hmm. I guess my level is insufficient to raise my skills to the next stage. Anyway, because i want to make a living, should i raise dexterity? It seems like it would be useful in tool making. When i thought about acquiring that skill, a message appeared.

『Dexterity Improvement: Level 1. Because you possess this skill, you have also acquired the derivative skill Mapping: Level 1』

Are you serious!? It seems the correct answer was to raise my dexterity. I immediately thought about the map, causing a peripheral map to appear in my line of sight. The range isn't too wide. The radius is about 500m, in this case the map has a smaller scale? A little way off from the blue circle in the centre, there are blinking red lights. Those must be enemies.

The most worrying one is the yellow dot which blinks on and off at the edge of the map. It might be a building, if it's a building, i can use it as a base. If not, i'll have no choice but to sleep outside. whilst curled up in my robe.

I think i'll aim to go there for now, i'll head straight for it.

After a while of walking, a dirty hut comes into view. It isn't broken, but it's considerably worn out. I'd be happy with anything as long as it has a roof, there is also a river at the back. With this, i won't have to worry about finding water for a while.

There seems to be a hearth built into the floor with a pot hanging over it, i also find flint inside the hut. With this, i can easily boil and cook food. The room itself seems to be able to sleep at least 2-3 people. Albeit cramped together.

As the base is secured for the time being, whilst looking for food, i'll subjugate any monsters nearby. Just so i feel at ease at night.

(TLN: Scene change, in this scene he's just set off from his base and decided to go hunting. It wasn't clear in the RAW's)

When i approached one of the blinking red dots nearby, a demon came into view. It wasn't a slime this time, but a monster the size of a small dog. It's appearance was one that made the pit bull's look clumsy. The face is one which makes the pit bull's look plain. It's teeth stick out dangerously and it's body is rugged, it's charm is completely different to Earth's pit bull.

Moreover, since it's eyes shine red, i can't call it a normal creature. Even the map recognises it as an enemy, so there shouldn't be a problem if i kill it.

Even if it's size is that of a small dog, i don't really want to be involved with it's jagged teeth, so without making a noise, i creep around it's back.

Status displays Red Dog: Level 3. If it's at that level, i think i can win.

I approached at a distance in which i could leap, i had removed the dagger from my waist previously, i checked i was fully prepared and then rushed in. I decided not to cut this time, but instead stab it. It's body seems to be hard, it seems necessary to give it a mortal wound.

I attacked, the dogs reactions seem slow and it tried to avoid me. However, the dagger was deeply embedded in his back before he could.

[Gyawan!]

It screams before falling to the ground. Though it convulsed for a while, it eventually stopped moving. This was the first creature i killed that shed blood, because of that a felt a tinge of guilt. However, i decided to look at it positively, I managed to survive the encounter.

It didn't vanish like the slime corpse did. Because it is likely to be eaten, i cut its neck and hang it up to drain the blood. I remember a hunter doing the same thing on a television programme i watched once.

After the blood was drained, i cut out the parts which seemed edible. It was considerably disgusting, i nearly threw up 3 times, but it was bearable. Is this ok for a human to eat?

After i had dismantled it, a stone came out like the slime. The material seems slightly different, but i secured it for the time being.

Because i was concentrating on the dismantling, i didn't notice that i had levelled up.

Est: Level 4

HP 38/38

MP 25/25

Power 16

Speed 16

Dexterity 20

Defense 12

Wisdom 11

Luck 7

Skills Possessed:

【(Experience Boost: Level 1)】

【(Fencing: Level 1)】

【(Dexterity improvement: Level 1)】

【(Mapping: Level 1)】

【(A new skill can be acquired. Please choose from amongst the following:)】

【(HP improvement)】

【(MP improvement)】

【(Power improvement)】

【(Speed improvement)】

【(Defense improvement)】

【(Wisdom improvement)】

【(Luck improvement)】

【(Fencing: Level 2)】

There’s no dexterity improvement this time?

Although i was interested in level 2 fencing. I wanted to focus on basic skills as it seems you can acquire a derivation skill with it.

I'd like to try various things instead of going directly for strength, so i chose wisdom improvement for now.

『Wisdom improvement: Level 1 acquired. Because of this the derivation skill, Flame magic: Level 1 was also acquired.』

Oh! I can finally use magic at last. I'd just found a flint, but if i can use flame magic there's no need to use it. I can also make hot water to wash my body with.

I seem to be able to live a little easier now.

Perhaps i should check my status again.

Est: Level 4

HP 38/38

MP 25/25

Power 16

Speed 15

Dexterity 20

Defense 12

Wisdom 21

Luck 7

Skills Possessed:

【(Experience Boost: Level 1)】

【(Fencing: Level 1)】

【(Dexterity improvement: Level 1)】

【(Mapping: Level 1)】

【(Wisdom improvement: Level 1)】

【(Flame magic: Level 1)】

Chapter 4 – Magic

With my newly acquired fire magic, I wanted to test how strong it was. I took position aiming at the river.

[Flame!]

Although i hesitated with what to chant, it seems to have come to me naturally. From my palm, flames were ejected. Though the flames disappeared after a few seconds, it was by no means lacking in heat. The range seems to be about 1 metre, i wonder if I can adjust the power?

This time I imagine a small flame. Then, a fire slightly bigger than that of a lighter appeared on the tip of my finger. It seems the power can be adjusted.

I was feeling a little tired, so I checked my MP. It seems to have decreased by about 6 points. So does one cast cost 3 points? If so, rapid fire may be a problem.

Next, I picture the image of a sphere. A ball of fire the size of a soccer ball appears in my palm. There doesn't seem to be any consumption of MP in order to maintain it. I aimed at the calm water's surface and threw it. It flew over the surface of the water at a considerable speed and then exploded. Water vapour and wind scatter, the speed seems comparable to that of a junior high baseball players throw.

Anyway, with this, i can see that magic is very versatile. I had also challenged and beaten the so called "Chant less casting".

I managed to produce a fireball just by picturing it in my head. I also tried to picture it flying, however it seemed to go out halfway through.

Though, I succeeded in doing it after several attempts, I don't fully understand how it works. It seems like it won't work if the image isn't pictured clearly. Magic is easy if you have a good imagination.

I decided to take a rest as I had become a little tired. I pull out some dried meat from my bag and check my status whilst eating.

Est: Level 4

HP 38/38

MP 16/25

Power 16

Speed 16

Dexterity 20

Defense 12

Wisdom 21

Luck 7

Skills Possessed:

【(Experience boost: Level 1)】

【(Fencing: Level 1)】

【(Dexterity improvement: Level 1)】

【(Mapping: Level 1)】

【(Wisdom improvement: Level 1)】

【(Flame magic: Level 1)】

【(Chant less casting: Level 1)】

Is it because I've taken a rest? It seems like my MP has recovered a little. Apparently, it seems to recover as time passes. Also, apparently I've gained the 『Chant less casting: Level 1』skill. If I raise this, maybe magic will be easier to picture.

Since my break was over, i decided to hunt the remaining red dots on the map.

The number of enemies near the hut seem to number 6 in total. I wanted to try flame magic in actual combat, however it was far too dangerous to use in a forest. So I decided to just use my dagger.

The red dots consisted of 3 red dogs and 3 slimes. After I had defeated them all, my level rose.

Est: Level 5

HP 45/45

MP 40/40

Power 20

Speed 21

Dexterity 28

Defense 16

Wisdom 29

Luck 10

Skills Possessed:

【(Experience boost: Level 1)】

- 【(Fencing: Level 1)】
- 【(Dexterity improvement: Level 1)】
- 【(Mapping: Level 1)】
- 【(Wisdom improvement: Level 1)】
- 【(Flame magic: Level 1)】
- 【(Chant less casting: Level 1)】

- 【(A new skill can be acquired. Please choose from amongst the following:)】
- 【(HP improvement)】
- 【(MP improvement)】
- 【(Power improvement)】
- 【(Speed improvement)】
- 【(Defense improvement)】
- 【(Luck improvement)】
- 【(Fencing: Level 2)】

The rise in ability this time seems to be big. I decided to go for a basic skill again and chose 『Speed Improvement』.

『Speed Improvement: Level 1 has been acquired. Because of this, the derivation skill Spy: Level 1 has also been acquired.』

Spy? I don't understand it very well, but will it let me move like a ninja? Even though my level rose, I still don't feel any different. I decided to test it out.

Once it was activated I took a few steps forward. It seems like the sound from crushed leaves and twigs has sufficiently decreased.

It seems like this skill can be used to erase your presence.

I have already secured the surrounding area, so perhaps I should rest for today. I dismantled the red dogs and collected their meat.

I get some dead twigs and sticks from the forest and place them in the hearth. Usually I would need a newspaper or something in order to provide enough flames to light the twigs. However, as i have flame magic, there is no need.

I pour the water I got from the nearby river into the pan, then I cut the meat into small pieces and boil it. I stick some spare meat onto a stick then place it over the fire to the side of the pot. A kebab, regrettably there is no seasoning.

Because it smelled good, I decided to eat the kebab first. It has a hard texture, but it's taste is similar to chicken. It's delicious.

After consuming the kebab, I put out the fire and ate the boiled meat. The meat was very tender. Although it was easy to eat, it seems as though the taste was boiled out.

After everything is consumed, I rest. I'll pray the next monster I kill can be eaten. I decided to confirm my status before sleeping.

Est: Level 5

HP 45/45

MP 40/40

Power 20

Speed 29

Dexterity 28

Defense 16

Wisdom 29

Luck 10

Skills possessed:

【(Experience boost: Level 1)】

【(Fencing: Level 1)】

【(Dexterity improvement: Level 1)】

【(Mapping: Level 1)】

【(Wisdom improvement: Level 1)】

【(Flame magic: Level 1)】

【(Chant less casting: Level 1)】

【(Speed improvement: Level 1)】

【(Spy: Level 1)】

It might have been because I was physically and mentally tired. But, as soon as I laid down, I lost consciousness.

Chapter 5 – The beaten track

One week has passed since I came here, I had made it my routine to continuously hunt for monsters in order to eat their meat. In the process, I had levelled up several times and gained some more skills.

=====

Est: Level 10

HP 120/120

MP 90/90

Power 61

Speed 63

Dexterity 65

Defense 60

Wisdom 70

Luck 25

Skills possessed:

【(Experience boost: Level 1)】

【(Fencing: Level 1)】

【(Dexterity improvement: Level 1)】

【(Mapping: Level 1)】

【(Wisdom improvement: Level 1)】

【(Flame magic: Level 1)】

【(Chant less casting: Level 1)】

【(Speed improvement: Level 1)】

【(Spy: Level 1)】

【(Power improvement: Level 1)】

【(Defense improvement: Level 1)】

【(Shield: Level 1)】

【(Freezing magic: Level 1)】

=====

Power and Defense improvement. Their power was reflected in combat. Although I had been bitten by a red dog whilst hunting, I was surprised to see that I was only dented a little, despite the fact that the attack had been on my bare skin. My body seems stronger than I could have ever imagined.

The degree to which my defense rose is good, i also obtained the shield skill from it. However, since I don't have a shield, I can't check it out. I'll have to try it when i get a shield.

I was happy that I could use freezing magic now. I tested it out by trying to create a small snowstorm as well as freeze an individual target and fire icicles.

Because the level of my freezing magic was low, the snowstorm was not very powerful. At best, it can be used as a refrigerator.

I could also create an ice block in a place of my choosing. When used in conjunction with flame magic, I won't have to worry about running out of drinkable water.

I had collected a fair amount of monster cores. If I keep staying here, I won't be able to sell them for money. It's wasteful.

I decided to aim for a village this time, because I can understand rough geographical features thanks to my mapping skill, I scouted around my base.

There was a long stripe on the map, it seems to be a highway. I decided to walk towards it.

Although a walk this long would have tired out my past self, I didn't feel fatigued at all. Along the way, I was attacked by familiar demons, but I defeated them almost instantly. I've become stronger.

After a while, I reach the highway. On the map, the road seems to branch out; South, East and West. Which one should I go down to reach a village?

I was initially worried, but I put that aside and decided to go South.

As i was walking, I realised an important thing. Although it's possible to meet other people, i won't be able to understand their language. I can't even read and write, let alone speak to a person from this world.

Whilst I think about it, a status screen appears.

『As a bonus for choosing a disadvantaged environment, you have been given Language Capability』

The timing of this message....am I being observed? According to that voice, it said that a manager exists in each world called "God".

To be honest, I wasn't really concerned about putting on a show. I should welcome the fact that I can understand this worlds language now. If I had chosen the environment of living in a wealthy family, would I have to learn it

myself?

Along the way, I didn't encounter any thieves or demons. Is the public order well kept?

Gradually, a village comes into view, it's quite large. It's enclosed by a simple barrier made of hedges, it has no defensive value, it's probably there to keep the cattle in.

I see some people tending farmland, children are looking after cattle nearby. Their appearance appears to be human, they don't have different coloured skin or pointed ears.

I guess I'll speak to the 50 year old or so farming Ossan. This would be the first person I've spoken with since coming to this world, so I was slightly tense. However, I put on a friendly face and spoke so as not to cause any wariness. (TLN: Ossan means uncle)

[Hello~]

[Hello, are you an adventurer? What business do you have with our village?]

It works! Although it's clear they're not speaking Japanese, that's what I'm hearing. If I could describe it, it's similar to having it dubbed over.

Now that I think about it, that person said adventurer, does a guild exist? I should gather more information.

[Yes, i'm an adventurer. Is there a guild nearby?]

I tried to get the man to tell me the location of the guild.

[Sadly, there isn't one in this village. If you go further south, there is a large town named Koper, you'll find a guild there]

That's it! There is such a thing as a guild, my life as an adventurer can start now.

[Really? Thank you. By the way, is there a general store nearby?]

[Ah, there is. The first floor of the nearby inn serves as a general shop]

[I'm saved, i'll be going now]

I express my thanks and then leave. The Ossan returns to working on the farmland. I'll try and sell my monster cores at the inn first.

Inside the town, a large amount of buildings are lined up. One of the buildings looks slightly bigger than the rest, that must be the inn. A jar-ing sound is made as I open the wooden door. There we some tables and chairs scattered about the room.

Apparently, it also serves as a pub. The owner must be very business minded. I speak to the Auntie who is preparing ingredients behind the counter.

[Hello' i've heard that this is the general store]

[Thats right. Do you need something?]

[Can you buy this?]

I take out the monster cores I had looted from my bag.

[Monster cores hmm. The amount is good, i can buy it all for 3 small silver coins and 6 coppers. If you wish to stay overnight, i can deduct the price from this transaction. One night costs 8 copper coins, it's an extra small silver coin for meals.]

I receive the money from the Auntie who collects the monster cores, it seems aside from the small silver coin. There exists a large silver coin, small gold coin and large gold coin.

[Your room is on the second floor. Because the rooms only lock from the inside, if you have any valuables please give them to me for safekeeping. Meals are taken here]

It's too early to sleep as it is still light outside. I thought about taking a nap, but decided against it as i wanted to ask something.

[Umm....what are the monster cores used for?]

Oh? judging from the receptionists expression, did i ask something careless?

[You don't know? the stones are used to fuel various things such as lamps, fire lighters and weapons. Which country did you come from? This should be something even a child knows.]

It can't be helped that I don't know considering my circumstances, but I didn't want to say this to the Auntie.

[Sorry, i forgot for a moment]

I decided to retreat to my room. A smile floated on my face at the thought of laying down on a soft bed after so long.

Chapter 6 – Claire

Villagers who had ended their work for the night, descended down to the first floor to drown themselves in meal and sake. I sit down at an open table and order supper from the auntie. She returns with a stew containing mutton and steamed potatoes. It smells a little, but to have a meal cooked after such a long time, it tastes delicious.

I completely empty the bowl and then pay the additional charge for an extra serving. Also, i was interested in the liquor made from a tree that they serve here, so i ordered that as well.

Apparently it was called ale, i tried it and it wasn't carbonated. Honestly, i didn't find it very tasty. However, it was cold. When i observed the kitchen, they seemed to pour the liquor from a wooden barrel only when someone orders ale.

Maybe they used a monster core to cool the ale.

As i was eating silently, a drunken man tried to talk to me.

[Hey! Adventurer. Do you drink!?] (TLN: 兄ちゃん)

He seems to be heavily under the influence of alcohol. The volume of his voice is way too loud considering the short distance. However, the drunken man doesn't seem to care.

[Yes, i drink. The meals here are delicious.]

[Of course! everything is made in this village, it's impossible for it to taste disgusting]

This uncle seems cheerful. It's not as if i'm praising him, but i can feel him improving the mood.

[Are you heading for Koper? It will be easy to live there as an adventurer]

[Why?]

[What, you don't know? It's because there's a dungeon there. No-one has reached the innermost layer yet, so many adventurers are challenging it]

It came to a dungeon at last. Now i have the opportunity to become a fully-fledged adventurer! However, i should be careful when entering, i don't want my grave to be made there.

After the uncle had finished his one sided narrative, he returned to his seat feeling satisfied. The other members of the drunken man's party seem tired. I decided to sleep for now in preparation for tomorrow.

On the next morning, i ask the auntie if she has any portable food i can take with me, she returns shortly afterwards with hard bread. How about preserved foods? was what i wanted to ask, however it's only three days from here to Koper, so i didn't ask for much. This will do in the mean time.

Leaving the village behind me, i travel further south. Along the way, there

were many branches off onto other highways and the road was gradually becoming flat. This was evidence that a town was approaching. Behind me, there was a carriage travelling down the highway, i paid 1 small silver coin and was granted permission to ride with them.

I was riding with some people who were wearing nothing but rags. Seeing my confusion, the carriage driver explained that they were slaves that were to be sold in Koper. Is there slavery in this world?

I felt ashamed at this and decided to observe them. Every one of them has dead eyes, the light in them had simply disappeared. (TLN: I omitted something about レイプ目 which translates literally to “rape eyes”)

The slaves i was travelling with included a 40 year old uncle, a man who was the same age as me, as well as one with a large lizard-like body. Gender is difficult to judge, regardless of that, i was dazzled by the last person.

It was a nekomimi. Is that a tail!? It's moving so it isn't part of a costume, it must be real! I think she's slightly younger than me, she's a considerably beautiful girl.

The slave owner explained whilst i paid attention. She seems to be a beastman of the cat family, she was good looking and healthy, he seemed rather proud whilst describing her. Although i was hesitant about treating others as a commodity, however this is the norm in this world. By the way, the price was ten large gold coins. I can buy her!? (TLN: Slave owner is the one driving the carriage)

We seem to have arrived at a way point and decided to set up camp for today. My help was requested and as i was given a lift, it's hard to decline.

Because i have a map, i left it to display for the time being.

By a stroke of luck, i was assigned to watch the nekomimi girl from the carriage. There is a pitfire opposite us. As she had kept silent up until now, i decided to try and talk with her. (TLN: RAW states 2 girls, but i wrote it as one as i wasn't sure)

[What is your name?]

[....it's Claire. However, our names change when we're bought. So it won't be that for long.]

[May i ask why you became a slave?]

[....It's fine. I've told this story many times]

Little by little, Claire began to narrate her story. Apparently, her village had been poor for a long time, it was difficult to make a living. The bad harvests had continued for 2 to 3 years.

The people in the village tried to break through the situation by buying new agricultural equipment powered by (monster cores). It was going well until suddenly, there was a surprise monster attack on the village. The damage was extensive, the newly purchased farming equipment had been broken.

Because of this, they were swamped with debt and had no way to pay it off. It seems the only profitable thing they had left to sell was people.

[...to protect your parents and brothers, you should become a high priced slave]

I don't have the words to put into context how sad that story was. Although there were similar stories on Earth, it was never to this extent.

[However, won't you be liberated from being a slave once the debt is paid off?]

The answer to my question came in the form of a weak smile by Claire.

At that time, two red blinking dots appeared on my map.

Chapter 7 – Group battle

「It's an enemy!」

When i issued a short warning, the group who had been sleeping immediately jumped out of bed. Claire took a knife into her hands, for self defence.

「Really, are you sure!？」

Even though he was sceptical, the slave trader still checked his equipment

「I'm not sure, but something is approaching! It numbers no less than 20!」

I've only ever fought one on one before, now i have to fight an unknown group. In the worst case, i can run away, but i'd set Claire free first. I'm sure she'll manage somehow, i'm not some kind of champion of justice.

Our war potential seems to consist of me and two of the slaves, the lizard man and the old man. The boy who is the same age as me isn't even an adventurer, it would be better if he isn't put into the fighting force. I'm starting to tremble.

「They're getting closer. The distance is....they're here!」

When i confirm on the map, it appears that the enemy group has already closed in. Something in the depths of the forest, that the light from the bonfire

can't reach, jumps out.

「It's a goblin!」

The slave trader cried. Using my knowledge from games, i understood that these guys have a habit of moving in groups. How unfortunate, to have encountered such a thing.

As i don't need to hold back on a monster, i begin my attack with freezing magic. The first shot pierces the goblins chest and instantly kills it. I shoot out a second and a third shot, i'm shooting freezing magic continuously, however the amount of goblins coming out of the forest does not slow down.

「~Kugya!」

I hear the cry of a goblin nearby. It looks like the true battle has begun. Regardless, i concentrate on the first goblin party in front of me. Claire has her weapon poised, fortunately she is alive and well.

My magic has just about reached it's limit, so i draw the dagger at my waist. I confirmed the goblins status.

The goblin was level 7, it was a fair adversary for me.

「Claire! Watch out!」

When i shout such a thing, a goblin carrying a rusted dagger attempts to slice diagonally from her shoulder to her waist. I kick away the corpse of a goblin and

pull out my dagger from it's back.

「Kyaa!」

Claire, who saw the goblins attack, stopped the blow. Stupid thing! Die!

I swiftly killed the goblin.

When i threw away the goblins corpse, i observed the situation of the slave traders party. Where did the lizard man pick that up? He seems to be brandishing a large log and fighting back. The goblins around him, don't seem to want to get close.

One of the slave men collapses to the ground and doesn't seem to be moving. There were deep slashes on his back. Because of the size of the pool of blood, he is most likely dead. (TLN: This slave man, is the old man from before)

The slave man's companions are also working hard. They're already bleeding from their whole bodies. I can't even recognise them as an aunt and a boy. Is there anywhere to run away? I confirmed that we had been completely encircled, it doesn't seem possible. (TLN: Sorry! made a mistake on chapter 6, there are 2 slave girls Claire and one older one (aunt))

There seems to be around 8 goblins left. I fire freezing magic at one of the goblins that tried to run away. Some of the goblins who understand that the situation is disadvantageous, scatter. I'm not so kind as to let them leave, so i continue shooting freezing magic until the ones who tried to run are dead.

I confirm Claire's safety, however it appears that the slave trader is in a bad

state. His consciousness seems to be non-existent, due to the extent of his bleeding, it appears that he has died.

Searching the surroundings, i also discovered the remains of the aunt and the boy. The result might have been different if i knew how to use recovery magic, i regretted that a little.

We gather the dead slave’s corpses and burn them. The lizardman taught me that cremation is important to prevent them becoming undead. We did the same thing with the goblins.

I tried to distribute the slave traders belongings between us three, but the two slaves declined. Apparently, if a slave acts independently before they are released, they are classed as a runaway slave. The backlash for which can even stretch as far as capital punishment.

I had to go to the town with the two people to explain to an official what had happened, and to determine their treatment. I was informed that, the person who picked the slave up first, becomes the new owner in the case that the master dies and the slave survives.

In that case, i should take these two people to the town. However, the wagon can no longer be used. The horses were also dead. But, because i didn’t want to make it a habit of camping here, i set off straight away.

I check my status and confirm that my level had gone up.

=====

Est: Level 13

HP 170/170

MP 120/120

Power 78

Speed 80

Dexterity 79

Defense 75

Wisdom 85

Luck 41

Skills possessed:

【(Experience boost: Level 1)】

【(Fencing: Level 1)】

【(Dexterity improvement: Level 1)】

【(Mapping: Level 1)】

【(Wisdom improvement: Level 1)】

【(Flame magic: Level 1)】

【(Chantless casting: Level 1)】

【(Speed improvement: Level 1)】

【(Spy: Level 1)】

【(Power improvement: Level 1)】

【(Defense improvement: Level 1)】

【(Shield: Level 1)】

【(Freezing magic: Level 1)】

【(A new skill can be acquired. Please choose from amongst the following:)】

【(HP improvement)】

- 【(MP improvement)】
- 【(Luck improvement)】
- 【(Fencing: Level 2)】
- 【(Experience boost: Level 2)】
- 【(Wisdom improvement: Level 2)】

=====

My increase in power was large this time. However, as shown by this fight, i was still a beginner. After considering various things for a while, i chose the experience boost.

Chapter 8 – Adventurer’s Guild

Chapter 8 – Adventurer's Guild

I arrived at the town of Koper on the afternoon of the next day. A ten metre high wall encloses the city, it seems to be considerably populated.

I headed for the soldiers garrison near the entrance to report the goblin attack. After i reported it, i was told to head to a certain place to decide whether or not to re-contract the slaves or release them. (TLN: Apparently, the person who picks up the slaves can release them or re-contract them to become theirs.)

Although i was exhausted, i still had things to do. I dragged my tired body around town looking for the contracting place.

Attracted by the smell of food, i bought three of what seemed to be a hotdog. The bread was cut in the middle and the sausage was put in it. Because all three of us were hungry, we wolfed it down greedily.

Eventually, we made it safely to the contracting place. The store apparently also trades in slaves. (TLN: There's a distinction between a slave trader and a contractor)

I thought i would be tense when i entered, however this was not the case. The beautiful elder sister was very inviting.

「Please come in, what business do you have today?」

Oh, she speaks in a fairly polite manner.

「I'd like to re-contract and release」

「Certainly, one silver coin per slave. Payment must be in advance, please」

I pass two silver coins to the smiling elder sister. I had a lot of money on hand thanks to the deceased slave trader. A man appeared from the interior whilst I was pre-occupied. He seems to be tattooed all over his face, he must be the one doing the ceremony.

I talk to the two slaves about it and we decided. The lizard man wanted to be released, but Claire was re-contracted as my slave.

Because the lizardman had his share of the slave traders money, he would be able to live fairly easily, so there was no reason for him to stay a slave. (TLN: Because he was released, he wouldn't be given punishment for having his own personal belongings, so was allowed the money)

Although Claire had similar circumstances, it wouldn't be easy to return back to her family. Even after wiping her debt and becoming free. I was also worried about living by myself. If possible, I wanted to take her with me.

If I can travel together with a beautiful girl, then my wishes are fulfilled.

Moving on to the ceremony, the tattooed man touched the lizard man's slave crest carved on his breast. It gradually emitted light as the lizard man seemed to writhe slightly in pain. When the light calmed down, the lizard man's crest had disappeared.

Next it was Claire's turn. The man applies his hand to her slave crest in the

same manner. I'm envious that he got to touch her breasts....

Claire writhed in pain slightly and when the light calmed down, a different slave crest appeared. This seems to be how the re-contracting is performed.

Claire, who was looking at her new slave crest, approached me.

「My best regards in the future, Master」(TLN: She say Danna-sama O.O# like Chitose)

I bowed my head. To be able to travel with such a beauty makes me the lucky one.

We said our goodbyes to the lizardman who bowed many times over. Ah, i forgot to ask his name...

Together with Claire, we walk to town. Since it's necessary, i want to go to the adventurers guild. I can likely earn money by receiving requests. I glance at Claire who walks beside me.

=====

Clare: Level 3

HP 23/23

MP 5/5

Power 6

Speed 11

Dexterity 10

Defense 4

Wisdom 7

Luck 10

Possessed skills: None

=====

Because she became my slave, i can now view her status. As she’s a cat, her speed and dexterity are high. Her luck is also high. Is luck related to survivability?

If we’re going to be travelling together, i should get Claire some equipment. Because i want to test my new ability “Shield”, i want to buy a shield.

We stop in front of a building, it has a sign that reads 『Adventurer’s Guild』 , so we enter the building.

We emerge in what seems to be a waiting room, there are tables placed everywhere. Probably for the sake of crime prevention, they don’t seem to serve liquor.

There’s a bulletin board near the entrance covered in stickers. They seem to be requests.

There was an elder sister of the beastman race sitting at the desk. Because her ears were different than Claire’s, was she perhaps a different species?

「Excuse me, this is my first time in the guild」

「I see. Are you hoping to register?」

「Yes. Two people, me and her」

I push Claire's lower back forward as i say so. Although she glanced at Claire, she quickly returned her gaze back to me. What? Is it because she's a dog and Claire's a cat?

「Then. I'll explain the ranks」

According to the elder sister's explanation, the rank's are as follows.

『Bronze』

『Silver』

『Gold』

『Adamantium』

To the adventurer's registered at the guild, you can receive discounts depending on your rank as well as various other privileges. You rank up by meeting a certain criteria that the guild sets.

However, it seems possible for your rank to fall as well. Depending on how many urgent requests you turn down.

Although you can do any request regardless of rank. The recommended rank is written on the request form. You are responsible for yourself if you die whilst undertaking a request at a higher rank than you are.

I also learnt that experience can be shared if you join a party. Apparently, it is easier to gain experience when you're in one. Magic seems to create a party screen, where the request to join can be accepted.

Joining a party allows you to see the detailed status of each member. I immediately party with Claire before i forget.

I receive two bronze plates from the elder sister. I can't wait to rise to the top!

Chapter 9

As I looked at the bulletin board, some bronze rank requests seemed to be stuck on it. Pet searches, cleaning someone's house, collecting herbs. The requests at this rank seem to just be chores. Although there are also some monster extermination requests such as slime extermination and pest control, there are not many.

First of all, I select the herb collection request as a test. It's not good if a beginner overworks himself. I'll be with Claire as well, so I don't want to be in a life and death battle in the beginning.

I hand the request letter over to the elder sister in order to accept it.

The request is to pick up herbs in the forest surrounding Koper, I was shown a picture of the herb needed as well as a short explanation on how to collect it. The reward is two copper coins per herb. The time limit is one week. There is no penalty for failing it.

If we encounter any monsters and defeat them, we can sell their cores directly to the guild.

The client was apparently the adventuring guild itself. They put out the requests in order to train beginners in recognising danger. The growth of the herb is short and because the demand is high, the request is always available.

I decide that we need new equipment, so after leaving the guild, we go to a nearby equipment shop. Shops such as these generally sell both weapons and protection, because of this they are known as equipment shops.

When we enter inside, various equipment is displayed in front of us. Swords, spears, axes and bows are all displayed on the wall. There's even armour and a shield on a mannequin.

「Is there a weapon Claire would like?」

「I'm quite good with a bow. At home I frequently went hunting」

Claire moves over the area where bows of various sizes are being displayed. She takes each one and carefully examines it. She seems to be testing how each one feels.

「Do you like it?」

「Yes master! It is very easy to use, but the price....」

When I see the price tag, it is indeed expensive. Although the prices of the cheapest bows start at 3 small silver coins, this one cost an incredible 3 gold coins. (TLN: Changed large gold coins to gold coins)

I have recently managed to understand the value of money, the lowest value of coin is 1 copper coin. Every 10 coins equals the value of the next single coin above it. The order of coins is as follows from smallest to largest value; copper coin -> small silver coin -> silver coin -> small gold coin -> gold coin.

I see, so the price is why Claire is hesitating. However, in the case of someone's life, I can't afford to be stingy. I also have the property of the slave trader on my that Claire handed back, it currently values 20 gold coins. Even if I buy it, it shouldn't be a problem.

I also bought a new dagger for Claire. The slave trader seems to have had one before, however it was very rusty. The goods I bought this time were high in practicality, but not so in beauty. By the way, since I bought the bow, I had to buy the arrows separately.

Because Claire lacked physical strength, apparently she didn't want to wear heavy armour, so she chose some lightweight leather armour. There was also ranks of leather armour, with the defensive power increasing with each level. From, rabbit to wild boar to lizard to bear.

The armour that Claire chose was made from bear skin. Not the type where the whole body is covered, but the one that covers the top half from shoulder to shoulder. It only defends a little portion of the lower body, about halfway down the thighs. The colour is dyed white, it gives off a clean feeling. It seemed like the armour any girl would like, Claire was reserved, but in the end it was bought for 5 gold coins.

As for me, I'll look at the shields first. They varied in sizes, some could cover an entire person, whilst others could probably only protect the face.

The one that especially caught my attention, was the one that looked like the home base of a baseball game. I equip it as an experiment, it's not very heavy. The leather it's made with seems to be from the cow. The colour is grey, almost black. It looks almost like the monster it came from, it costs 1 gold coin. (TLN: The cows/rabbits named here are demon/ monster versions)

Next is a sword. The dagger I was using previously is now extremely ragged.

I don't want a heavy large sword, as if I can't move it easily, then what's the point? I was aiming to get a longsword.

When I ask the shopkeeper, he suggests a magic sword. When I test it, it appears to be much sharper than normal sword. The price is extremely high at 8 gold coins, however I reluctantly buy it.

Although the money I once had has sharply decreased, it wasn't really my money to begin with, so it's almost like I spent nothing.

Now that our equipment is sorted, let's search for an inn to spend the night.

Chapter 10

As we walked along the street, we spotted several inns in line with one another. The size of the inns were similar, but we chose the one with the large stables in the back.

As is common with most inns, the first floor was the dining room and the tavern. Those who wish to stay the night are located on the second floor. Because it was dinner time, an increasing number of people were entering the inn.

I walked up to the waiter girl and inform her that I wanted to get a room.

「Three small silver coins per person per night. A meal on top of that costs extra. You can eat elsewhere, however because the meal made here is so good, I wouldn't suggest it」

I was informed with a smiling face. It was alot more expensive than the first village, but I suppose prices will be different depending on the location.

For the time being, I decided to stay for one week and hand over the money. If I don't find a way to earn money soon, I may go bankrupt; I will have to work hard.

The meal was bread and fried vegetables with ale. The total cost came to 3 coppers. At this price, the first inn was better in terms of food for cost.

「After such a long time, a decent meal is very welcome」

Claire says so pitifully, whilst happily shovelling food into her mouth. Considering the diet of an average Japanese person, this meal is shabby, but to a slave who has gone through many hardships.....I'll make sure to get something good to eat everyday from now on.

After the meal was finished, we went up to our room. Oh? even though we paid for two people, there is only one bed, Isn't that strange? (TLN: He makes some sort of reference to Karaoke here. About how it's not like Karaoke, where you pay for one machine, but multiple people use it. But it was difficult to translate -_-so I left it out)

I tried to protest, but was stopped by Claire.

「Isn't it common to only pay for the number of people staying?」

Claire tilted her head to one side as she said so. Ok, that wasn't expected, but still. There is no shower, nor is there a bath. When I asked an elder sister downstairs, she said you order out a large tub instead of a bath.

They seem to usually draw out water from the well out back, then wash themselves with that. However I have magic, I just need to summon numerous ice blocks within the tub, then melt it down with fire magic. Instant bathwater.

「That incredible master! You can use both fire and ice magic!」

She seems to be excessively impressed. Is it really that impressive? I wanted to wash my body first, but I allowed Claire to go before me. As I was a gentleman, I left the room and I didn't peak. Nor did I listen in.

She initially refused, she felt it was wrong for a slave to bathe before her master. I told her it would be wrong to enter after a man, but she was still hesitant. However after being told I was looking forward to her transformation, she allowed it.

After she had finished, I also went in and bathed myself. I noticed that I had no extra clothes other than the ones I started with. The next thing on my list will have to be clothing.

However, it had now come to the critical event. Yes, the bed. We have no choice but to sleep next to each other as there is only one bed. If you have the consent of the other person, it should not be a crime.....maybe....

As I crawl into the bed excitedly, Claire puts out the light and lies down on the floor as if it's the natural thing to do.

「What are you doing!?!」

「Oh? Aren't we going to sleep now?」

I was met by a stupefied face. Training of this slave is a must.

「You don't have to sleep in such a place. Let's sleep together, come」

I make room as Claire slips into bed. I stroke her hair a little to melt the tension. What is this? any vulgar feelings I had before seem to have vanished instantly.

「If it's my master's desire.....I will serve him」

I was told in a trembling voice.

「Does Claire have such experience?」

「I don't. Only things that I have read in a book....」

I'm not a brute, so you don't have to worry about it. Was what I told Claire as I stroked her head. She fell asleep immediately after, seemingly relieved. (TLN: Nice to see an MC who doesn't take advantage of his slaves :D)

I was thinking carefree up until now, this world is one in which others lives can be ruined by one another. This can lead to a constant fear.

Power is needed to overturn this. Starting from tomorrow, I will become a true adventurer.

Chapter 11

When I awoke, I could not find Claire anywhere. Was I abandoned? Although I was impatient at that moment, I later found out that she had helped out in the kitchen and had earned some wages.

「I'd like to help reduce master's burden, even if only by a little」

Good girl. Claire is such a good girl. I said repeatedly as Claire grew shy, I didn't accept the money however. Instead, I told Claire to use it for herself.

After we both finished breakfast, we immediately aimed for the south west forest. Because I didn't know how long a round trip would take, we bought food and drink ahead of time.

For food and drink, we bought some sausage, cheese and mead. I've eaten neither sausage nor cheese in this world, but I doubt there is much difference in taste. Mead as well, I've never drank it before in my previous world, but I'm sure they'll be no problem.

I asked the uncle at the food stand how the bags that keep the food warm work. A lot of the other adventurers seemed to have one.

Apparently, there's a small pocket in the bottom of the bag in which a magic stone is stored. It is excellent in keeping warm things warm and cold things cold, it's very versatile.

If I knew there was something this convenient, I would have bought it

immediately. But since too much money was used for supplies and equipment, I'll have to wait until after this request.

A lot of people are going to and from the gate this early in the morning. In order to set up camp safely, we should set off now so that it will still be light when we get there.

Whilst looking at the people going through the gate, I took out the request slip for directions. Travel south, go right at the first branch in the road. It was mostly a straight path, it would be difficult to get lost.

Looking at Claire, she initially seemed like a pretty girl. But right now, she seemed extremely beautiful. (TLN: For some reason he says "daughter"? (娘) -> Musume I just changed it to "girl" since I'm not sure what he means)

「I receive food from gentle master every day. I'm also allowed to sleep in a futon and have a bath. I never expected to have such nice thing....」

I stroked her head instinctively. I was truly happy to have helped this girl.

After Claire had finished her bath last night, I discovered that she was a red head. I initially thought her hair was darkish grey. Her pupils are also red, so they shine brightly in the morning sun.

Currently, she had her hair in a ponytail. With all new equipment, she looked like a capable adventurer.

Along the road, two people of a similar age to me. A man and a woman were resting on the side of the road. Since we had travelled for a while, we decided

to rest alongside them.

「Are you two possibly doing the herb extraction request?」

「That's right, you?」

「Well, you probably would want to stop here. We went to the collection site previously, everyone has fled since the site is overrun with orcs」

Orc? I haven't fought one yet, they must at least be stronger than a goblin. From my knowledge, they are quite difficult to defeat.

There was no mention in the request letter about orc. They must have moved from somewhere for some reason. However, I can not stay here and wait. The request has a time limit after all.

Even if there is no penalty for failing your first request, the guilds impression of us wouldn't be favourable.

「If it's okay with you, why don't you come with us?」

I was told. Well, I may as well look at their statuses and see if they're the real thing.

Amyl Level 8

Lelena Level 7 (TLN: Someone offer a better name? レレーナ. Switched it to "Lelena" for now, the two kana at the start are "Re" changed to "Le", the middle particle extends the vowel on the last "Le" changing it to "Lee" and then

the last kana is “Na”. So it is pronounced “Le-lee-na” but I wrote it as “Lelena”)

There level is neither low nor high. Is this the standard level for newbie adventurers?

Amyl has a broad long sword equipped to his back. He’s wearing chainmail along with a worn shield. He seems to be around 17 or 18 years old, his hair is short and brown. He seems quite cheerful.

Lelena is equipped with a weapon with spikes all other it, a morning star. She is wearing a long white robe, with a metal chest plate. She looks sort of like a priest. She seems able to use recovery magic, she’d be perfect for a supporting role.

Since Amyl seemed confident he could beat an orc 1 on 1, it would be advantageous to team up with him. I consult Claire anyway.

「Whatever master wishes, I will do」

After getting Claire’s consent, we teamed up with the two adventurers.

Chapter 12

After finishing their self-introductions, the four people left together.

「Est's level is high. How long have you been an adventurer for?」

Amyl is unreserved when speaking to others, even though it's our first meeting. I'm not a timid guy, so I answer promptly.

「I just registered yesterday. Claire registered then as well」

「Yesterday!? You're a high level even with that....well, it might be thanks to your skills that your experience has risen so high」

He seems to have convinced himself. Sorry, I am a 15 year old from another world with a cheat ability.

I hear their circumstances from Amyl. They were both childhood friends in the same village, they had grown up listening to stories from adventurers who passed by. They became attracted to that way of life.

I showed a bitter smile.

With admiration in their hearts, they vowed to become adventurers when they grew up. It has now been 2 years since they left their village.

For the first year, they spent their time doing odd chores, raising their levels and arranging their equipment. It was only recently that they began to receive

requests from the town.

Amyl was huddling close together and said in a low voice.

「If this request goes well, I think I'll propose to Lelena」(TLN: Death flag?)

He said those ridiculous lines with a joyful expression. Hey, think about you timing? What if you die later. Also, your both only 17-18, isn't it too early to marry?

「I think everyone is married around this age in the village? We're different from aristocrats who marry early. We still have to work or else our house will be poor」

I see. So there is an economical reason. Though in Japan, people of this age would be seen as children, they are adults in this world.

Lelena keeps looking back, the conversation between Claire and Lelena seems joyful, it's difficult to hear what they are talking about.

Like this, we arrived in front of the forest, which was our destination. From here on out, we are silent. When I check the map, the Orcs aren't moving, they seem to be standing still in one spot. Just what are they doing?

Before battle, I managed to acquire a skill from watching Amyl. 『Swordplay: Level 1』 now has the additional skill 『Crushing head attack』. I managed to get it by swinging a sword straight down.

Lelena has the skills 『Recovery Magic: Level 1』 and 『Detoxification Magic: Level 1』. Healing a serious injury would be impossible, but light injuries seem ok.

Est: Level 13

HP 170/170

MP 120/120

Power 78.

Speed 80.

Dexterity 79.

Defence 75.

Wisdom 85.

Luck 41

Possessed Skills:

『Experience Boost: Level 2』

『Swordplay: Level 1』 (TLN: Fencing is now swordplay)

『Dexterity improvement: Level 1』

『Mapping: Level 1』

『Wisdom improvement: Level 1』

『Fire magic: Level 1』

『Chant-less Casting: Level 1』

『Speed improvement: Level 1』

『Spy: Level 1』

『Strength improvement: Level 1』

『Defence improvement: Level 1』

『Shield: Level 1』

『Freezing magic: Level 1』

Claire: Level 3

HP 23/23

MP 5/5

Strength 6

Speed 11

Dexterity 10

Defence 4

Wisdom 7

Luck 10

No possessed skills

Our status doesn't seem to have changed. My experience boost has risen to level 2 after the goblin attack.

I go a little closer to the Orcs. They seem to be enjoying a meal, several dead bodies of animals are scattered about.

On average their level is 10, it's slightly higher than the other people with me, but we still have a chance to win.

First, we prepare to strike. Claire takes a bow out assumes a posture. I prepare freezing magic. I look towards Amyl, we both nod and begin the battle.

With a pyu~ noise, a sharp arrow shot by Claire flew into the head of a nearby Orc. The other Orcs who see this, raise a warning cry.

Without giving them any breathing time, I throw my ice magic. It hits the guy next to the Orc who had been insta-killed by Claire. It didn't kill him in one hit because it landed on his chest.

Spotting this, the other Orcs run towards me raising loud cries of anger.

Running out, I leave long distance attacks to the professional, Claire. I remove my brand-new longsword from its sheathe and lock swords with one of the Orcs. It was a heavy hit, but I move the momentum of it to my side. (TLN: Basically parrying the attack to his side)

A short distance away, Amyl was also locking swords with an Orc. He seemed to be pushing the Orc back, I was admiring him a bit.

With no trouble at all, Lelena defeated the Orc I had hit with my sword. Claire had also finished the one I hit with my magic. Hey, have I not killed one yet!?

After showing a pitiable expression, I quickly close the distance to the last Orc. As it makes a swing, I swing upwards. Suddenly, the Orcs face collapses. (TLN: He probably used that crushing head attack skill, it doesn't come up on acquired skills though :S)

Did we somehow end it safely? Amyl's death flag also seems to have broken.

All the members here had their level raised. Amyl went from level 8 to 10. Lelena went from 7 to 9.

Est: Level 15

HP 210/210

MP 160/160

Power 95

Speed 94

Dexterity 91

Defence 93

Wisdom 92

Luck 55

Possessed Skills:

『Experience Boost: Level 2』

『Swordplay: Level 1』

『Dexterity improvement: Level 1』

『Mapping: Level 1』

『Wisdom improvement: Level 1』

『Fire magic: Level 1』

『Chant-less Casting: Level 1』

『Speed improvement: Level 1』

『Spy: Level 1』

『Strength improvement: Level 1』

『Defence improvement: Level 1』

『Shield: Level 1』

『Freezing magic: Level 1』

『A new skill can be acquired. Please choose from amongst the following:』

『HP Improvement』

『MP Improvement』

『Luck Improvement』

『Swordplay: Level 2』

『Wisdom Improvement: Level 2』

Claire: Level 7

HP 78/78

MP 16/16

Power 27.

Speed 41.

Dexterity 40.

Defence 25.

Wisdom 19.

Luck 38.

Possessed Skills:

『Archery: Level 1』

Claire's status seems higher than me when I was at that level. Is it a racial characteristic?

Since experience is shared, we all levelled up a lot. There were benefits to skills as expected.

I decided to go for swordplay this time.『Swordplay: Level 2』acquired.

Chapter 13

「I just increased my level by 2 suddenly! How!?!」

Amyl is startled. It must be because of my 『Experience Boost: Level 2』. It would easily level him up if that was the case.

「Is everyone unhurt?」

Lelena seems to be confirming everyone's safety. After finding out that we were all uninjured, we all began to collect the magic cores from the orcs.

「Not matter how many times I do this work, I can't get used to it」

Amyl had been complaining non-stop. It's difficult to dismantle the monsters each time, it's disgusting as well. I wonder if those adventurers with higher ranks do the same thing?

As for the share of the magic cores. 3 went to me and Claire, 2 went to Amyl and Lelena, it was split according to the number of Orcs taken down.

「It's ok, since we gained a lot of experience as well」

I was told with a refreshing smile. I wonder how much the market value of these cores are. Lelena seems to know the answer.

「I've seen them redeemed before. 1 small silver coin per piece」

I see. I've defeated a lot of slimes and dogs in the first forest, yet they only equal 1 orc. During dismantling, the big parts of the orc were handled by me and Amyl. Claire and Lelena covered the small dismantling jobs.

If it's similar to a pig, I wonder if it's edible. From its appearance, it's something I'd really not like to eat. It seems it will get a decent value if sold directly at the city.

I froze the meat using ice magic. If we keep it for a while, I'll have to recast it. I place the frozen meat in the bag I bought previously. It's annoying that I can't wash my dirty hands.

As for the herbs we were originally supposed to pick, as per the request. It seems to grow everywhere, much like a weed. According to the request information, it often grows close to trees. Since it might be dangerous if we stay too long, we pick one set for two people.

As for the demands of medicinal herbs, this one is quite popular for adventurers, it can be pasted on wounds and cuts. The root also seems to be used with hot water by the general public as a nourishing drink.

When we put the herbs together, it makes about 1 straw bunch. On the request it seems you can receive 2 copper coins per herb. With a bundle like this, is it around 1 silver? If it's like that, even a beginner adventurer can make a decent amount of money.

However, this time we subjugated orcs. The magic core and meat will sell for a lot more. I want to go back to Koper straight away, however it's too late now. So we set up camp.

I return to the entrance of the forest, collecting dead branches for firewood. We were on alternating lookout duty between Amyl and Lelena and us. Amyl's face seemed fine at the time of the first change, however on the second change, he had tearful eyes with traces of a palm print on his face. Were you hit? Who did it?

The next morning, having spent the night safely. We set off for Koper.

I was interested in what happened last night, so I asked Amyl in a low voice. Apparently, after Amyl's death flag was broken. He proposed marriage to Lelena, however instead of a reply, he had a quarrel where she said she wanted to live a few more years as an adventurer.

Even if they resigned as adventurers now, they would have to move back to their country with little money. Lelena wanted to retire after at least achieving silver rank.

Amyl received a strong slap after coming on too strongly.

「Are you possibly....stupid?」

「Mean!! At least comfort me a little!!」

When looking at the state of Lelena happily chatting with Claire like last time. It doesn't seem like she's particularly cross.

「Oh, well. Don't worry about it too much. Because Lelena doesn't seem that angry. If you give her a present or something later, she'll forgive you.」

「Then, that's good」

It can't be helped, when we return to the town. I'll treat you to some liquor.

Chapter 14 - Party

『Cheers!』

The sound of wooden jugs hitting each other fills the air.

On the next day, we finally returned to Koper. We were currently toasting in the inn me and Claire rented a room in, named『The deer's horn』. To celebrate safely returning home and completing our guild requests.

We were in good humours as our first request gave us more income than expected.

「Anyway, I'm glad that we met Est. If it was just us, I don't think we could've beaten the Orcs」

「That's true, isn't it? I'm surprised at how strong you two are」

Don't raise me up that much. I only defeated 1 Orc you know? I didn't play that much of an active part.

「I have kept you waiting~」

The inn onee-san brought me a dish from the kitchen. I also ordered wine for two people. Grilled fish the size of a red snapper is on the plate in front of me, it's surrounded by green vegetables and mushrooms.

Is the cat race interested in fish as expected? Claire seems to be restless. Her

face is calm, however her tail is moving left and right unsteadily.

One of the dishes brought over had something like fruit on it.

When I try it. The fragrance of fruit spreads in my mouth. It's been boiled for a while, so the fruit is easy to chew.

As I was fascinated by the dish, Amyl begins to talk.

「What will you guys do now?」

Hearing that, I stopped what I was doing.

「I think we'll take one or two requests late, I'd like to try a dungeon as well」

The dungeon was one of the main reasons this town had many adventurers.

「Then, can we follow too? We've entered twice before, but it didn't go well」

The first time they went, they were forced to return after triggering a trap on the first floor. The second time, they went with a party of high-levelled adventurers. As such, Amyl was treated as a luggage carrier. Lelena was constantly pestered by the other party members, which ended in a quarrel.

「Est can be trusted and you're easy to speak to. Also, your level is close to ours. If we work together, it should go well. How about it?」

「Me too. I think having 4 people will make requests a lot easier」

If two people say so, then I have no reason in particular to refuse.

「What does Claire think?」

「I also think we'll work better with two more people」

Since there is no opposing opinions. Then it's settled.

「It's settled then. Let's make a party. Once more, my best regards」

「Same here. Best regards!!」

After toasting again, we talked until late into the night.

As I woke up the next day, my head was throbbing from drinking too much. Claire had just returned to the room with glasses and a pitcher of water.

「Good morning, master. I got water with fruit juice in it, it's said to be effective for a hangover」

Claire pours me a cup with a smile. I wonder if it was free? When I asked, she said she bought it with the pocket money she had saved.

We joined with Amyl in the afternoon. Amyl also seems to have a hangover and doesn't look very well. Only Claire and Lelena seem fine. I'm pretty sure they had the same amount of drink as us.

「First, let's go to the guild」

When we arrived at the guild. We were greeted by adventurers with wonderful equipment and complete novices with shabby equipment. Humans and the beast race are here as expected. However, inside there are other races such as dwarves and elves. As expected, elves are good looking.

A long queue was formed at the magic core and material hand in zone. The adventurer in front of us pulls out a bluish magic core from his bag. Beautiful. I wonder if the purity is high?

After the staff member looked at it, then measured it's weight. The price was 5 gold coins.

Amazing. 5 gold coins for just one? When I look at his level, it is 35. He was a middle aged man with a few grey hairs. I wish I could earn that much.

Our turn is coming finally. A letter of request, herbs, orc meat and orc magic cores are submitted.

Since there were a lot of herbs, it took a while for the appraisal. The price was 1 silver coin as expected. The magic cores seemed to have a high degree of purity, so 1 was worth 4 small silver coins. All in all, the meat sold for 2 small silver coins and 4 coppers.

When we split our money, we roughly got 1 and a half silver coins each. For our first request, this is quite good.

「What are you looking for?」

「I want a bag that can keep food warm」

「Oh. We also want one」

When we searched the stores, we found one immediately. There were varying sizes; large, medium and small. The price also varied per material used.

Even if something like a large bag is inexpensive, it still costs 1 gold coin. Right now, only a small or medium sized bag is needed.

Looking at the medium sized one, some of them have been made from cow stomachs. Others from bear stomachs. There's even a few made from demon stomachs.

The demon one is said to come from a big frog. They say this demon can swallow a man whole.

The price is one silver coin. If we buy this, our profits will become minus. However, everyone is looking at it, seemingly having decided. Well, the size is handy, so we bought one per person for a total of 4.

Now, should we find another request and then dive into the dungeon?

Chapter 15

We gathered at the guild the next morning in order to receive the next request. An urgent notice had been posted on the board and a crowd had already gathered.

Requests are on a first come first serve basis. Rank doesn't matter. It's a system where anyone can do a request as long as they're in a party.

Once upon a time it seems people used to take the request form, leading to some adventurers hogging it. Because of that, it's now prohibited to remove the forms.

Amyl's role was to fetch a request. It wouldn't be too bad if he chose a higher ranked one.

「Good job」

Whilst showering Amyl with praise, I looked over the request form.

Subdual request – Subdue the group of Ogres

A group of more than one Ogre including a Red Ogre have been spotted to the west on the highway from Koperu. The possibility of a nest being present is high. Without causing too much damage, find and subdue them. Although unconfirmed, there's a chance a Yellow Ogre also exists.

Bonus: 2 Gold Coins

Note: One small silver coin per Ogre. The time limit is 2 weeks. If there's no visible result by then, the fine is 5 silver coins.

Requester: Koperu Merchant Guild

Recommended Rank: Silver

Isn't the bonus strangely high?.....and silver? Will we be ok with just us?

Sweat was raining down Amyl's forehead. He must've tried hard. Suddenly, a voice sounded out from behind us.

「Hey, that request in your hands. Bronze ranks should stay away」

Looking towards the voice, there stood a man with studded white armour with an ornamental sword tucked into his waist. He had beautiful flowing blonde hair. A terribly flashy guy.

Next to the flashy man stood a beauty, a woman with blue hair in a robe holding a cane with a large jewel embedded in it, it looked expensive. On the other side stood a good looking man in white chain mail with no decor, he had black hair and was holding a spear. Are they all together?

「Because it's not a request that you guys can do, know your position and give it to me」

As he says so, the man steps up and tries to snatch the letter of request like

it's natural. Amyl tried to pass it over, but I snatched it from the side.

His hand cut the air and his good looking face scowled at me.

「What are you doing? Hand it over」

「Noisy. This is a request that we have received. Don't interfere」

It must have been unexpected that I'd resist, the good looking man starts laughing.

「Are you sane? This is a silver ranked request. You'll only die if you try it」

「You don't want to die right? So hand it over」

「That's why you're an amateur」

Him and his entourage are so noisy noisy. Certainly, it's more dangerous given our rank. Looking at their levels, they seem to be in the early twenties, but I'm not going to obediently give in to a guy like this.

「Est, why not just give it to them?」

「Master....」

Everyone's face seems to be anxious, but I plan on staying in this town for a while. It would be difficult to live this humiliation down if I gave in. I did a lot of disgusting things in my previous world like lowering my head to the CEO, I won't make the same mistake in this one.

「How many times are you going to make me say it? We received the request

first, look for another one」

-They instantly turned pale in anger.

「I understand, but be careful. There is a fine if you don't complete it. Also, accidents happen regularly on subjugation missions, so prepare accordingly」

After they had left, a panicked Amyl approached me.

「Est! We should've given it to them, it's dangerous!」

「Calm down Amyl, I think Est has some sort of idea. Let's hear him out first」

Lelena managed to settle Amyl down. Claire also seemed anxious, but she didn't fuss.

「This request is definitely dangerous and that group from before may interfere so-」

「If that's so then why!?!」

I ignored Amyl's interruption and continued.

「But I have an idea. The time limit is two weeks, we can raise our power in the mean time」

Although it was a simple and good idea, everyone is showing a blank face. Ara? How unexpected.

「You say that so easily.....but increasing your level isn't that simple you know?」

Don't say that whilst grimacing. I'll explain now.

We'll pass half of the time limit in a dungeon first, it'll increase our level earnestly! In the mean time, I'll talk to some merchants and find the location of the Ogres.

And then we'll have one week left to subdue the Ogres. Sounds like a good plan, right?

「Umm....」

Although Amyl is showing a difficult face, Claire and Lelena seem ok.

「I don't think it's impossible, if it's Est. When we fought together in a party, I gained more experience and my level went up by two just by fighting Orcs」

「I see! If we level up that fast, we can make it by the deadline!」

Due to that possibility, the mood rose somewhat. I accept this challenge. I didn't like the attitude of the man from before, so I guess we'll just have to show him our power.

Chronon: Weird right? I think there was a brief summary about the request form thing. It might have been translated wrongly. I think they can remove

forms from the board, but they have to take it straight to the reception area and hand it in before accepting it. This is so they can't hog it and keep running the same request.

Chapter 16

Once we decided where to meet, we immediately began preparing for the dungeon. It seems as if Amyl has prior experience with this.

The dungeon costs one small silver coin to enter. Your name and how many days you plan to stay there is written on a plate and registered at the guild's reception.

You're also asked whether or not you want to hire a "rescue team" after declaring your length of stay. It costs one small silver coin per person, which is then returned if you come back safely. However even if it's only one day past the deadline, they get to keep it.

It seems it doesn't matter whether or not you meet the search party in the middle of the dungeon or at the exit. (TLN: Meaning even if you get out of the dungeon. If you miss the deadline, they keep the money)

As far as safety zones go, the guild established one on the first floor that monsters tend to avoid. The first 5 floors are considered fairly easy, it gets more dangerous the deeper you go.

Various stores were littered around the entrance.....including a guild counter, in order to purchase monster cores and materials, and a blacksmith's branch office, providing weapons and protection.

It's troublesome to return to the town each time and there are a lot of adventurers who like to continuously dive into dungeons. I'm very thankful for this.

When I return to the inn, I inform them of our moving out and pay the fees in advance. I made Claire go to the meeting place first, whilst I headed straight to the merchants guild. Slipping through the chattering crowd, I approached the reception area manned by a bald old man.

「Excuse me. I'd like to consult you on the western highway Ogre subjugation mission」

I show him the letter of request and he just glares at it. I glance at him as if suggest continuation of our talk. Is this unsociable old man really a merchant?

I asked him to collect information from travelling merchants on that highway, in order to discover the location of the nests.

「For one week of collecting information from travelling merchants. It's 3 small silver coins per person, with 2 silver coins prepayment」(TLN: Might mean deposit or something)

It's more expensive than I thought, but I can't back out now. If this request goes well, we'll easily have enough to cover it. After paying the old man, I hurried to the meeting place.

As I arrive at the dungeon reception desk, I meet with Claire and the others who were waiting. Amyl went ahead and purchased preserved food and bedding for all of us.

I expressed my thanks and paid him for them. We then went to the reception desk.

「Est-san..4 person party bronze rank...and how long will you be staying?」

He has black rimmed glasses! The heart and soul of a clerk! Wait, glasses exist in this world!?

「We will be staying one week」

「One week....the registration is complete. Please be careful」

He saw us off after writing down our name, rank and length of stay on a register.

The entrance to the dungeon looked nothing like a cave. It was more like the entrance to an old railroad.

Amyl and I advance as the vanguard. Claire and Lelena are in the rearguard. This formation helps against surprise attacks, as one row won't receive the attack. I was reading the map next to Amyl, he seemed thankful to be paired with someone who could use one.

After proceeding forwards for a while, the light from the entrance died down, so we brought out lanterns. A map up to the 5th floor is provided free of charge by the guild, although it doesn't display treasure chests.

Suddenly, there was a reaction on the map. There was 7 moving objects and they were quite fast. As I warned the group, Amyl unsheathed his long sword and stood in front of me.

As the enemy approached, I sent a fireball down the tunnel. The figures of the enemy became distinguishable. They were bats, as large as a person's head. They're low level, but their blood sucking attack is dangerous. So you shouldn't let them cling to you.

Giant Bat: Level 5

Just as the bats were crashed into the vanguard, an arrow pierced the head of the first bat. It was Claire.

I tried to elude one of the bats, but failed. Raising my shield it crashed into me, sending a dull shock down my arm, the bat fell to the ground and began struggling. However a sword impaled it shortly after from Amyl.

One of the bats tried to approach Claire, but Lelena intercepted it. Her morningstar sank into the face of that bat

The other bats behind the lead group were a little late. I used my flame magic at maximum efficiency. As they came into contact with the flames, they burnt up instantly and fell to the ground.

When I turned my eyes behind me, Amyl was finishing off the remaining bats.

Our first battle ended safely. Everyone should have levelled up now.

Est: Level 16

HP 230/230

MP 175/175

Strength level :2 (+2)

Wisdom level :3 (+3)

Luck level :1

Skills possessed:

『Experience boost: Level 2』

『Swordsmanship: Level 2』

『※ There is a skill which is being concealed』

『You can acquire a new skill. Please choose from the following:』

『HP Improvement』

『MP Improvement』

『Luck Improvement』

『Recovery Magic』

Claire: Level 8

HP 90/90

MP 23/23

Strength: Level 2

Wisdom: level 1

Luck: Level 2

Skills Possessed 『Archery: Level 1』

Amyl went from level 10 to level 11. Lelena went from 9 to 10.

In this level up, my primary stat wisdom was rising. So I added recovery magic without hesitation. It would be useful in the future to heal injuries. I don't have

the opportunity to use it just yet as nobody was hurt. So I'll ask Lelena to teach me in the mean time.

(TLN: Author really screwed this up and yes, it does say luck level and strength level and stuff. Check the RAW yourself. Even if you can't read Japanese, you can at least still see the numbers. 筋力レベル: 2(+2) with レベル meaning level and 筋力 meaning strength or physical strength or muscle strength whatever)

(TLN: WHY???? AUTHOR? He changed the way skills are displayed for Claire in the RAW. Also, Claire's stats don't say Strength level. It just says strength 筋力 with a colon then level 2. So this 筋力: レベル2. He needs to get his act together)

Chapter 17 – Flasher

We arrived at the 2nd basement level, I think it took us about 3 hours to make it here. The only battle we fought was the bat but everyone is still tense and we're progressing slowly. The map is showing every enemy but not those in traps.

Because we're on a low floor the traps are super obvious, like a different floor or wall colour. I really hope that people don't trigger it. We prudently advanced and found an open room, inside of the room we took a rest and Lena gave me a lecture on recovery magic.

"It seems simple, but in reality there are several types of recovery magic"

To review, first you must directly touch the patient and apparently it magic is faster when there isn't an emergency.

It is possible to heal a person over a distance but it takes longer than directly contacting them and the wound would gradually heal.

Lastly, it has an AoE type. This is where anyone in the range of the magic will be healed but it takes lots of magic power and does not tell the difference between ally and enemy.

– I used Amyl as a guinea pig. He made a big deal of me cutting his finger a bit.

"You should have cut your own finger!"

“I can’t concentrate when I’m in pain, also it hurts!”

“That’s what I’m saying! It hurts!”

Such exaggeration. Why become an adventurer? Unfortunately Claire and Lelena had watched the whole thing and silently judged us.

According to the map that we got there’s a rest spot that the guild created. While making our way forward it slowly appeared. The land is a slight hill and there is the feeling of physical strength recovering slowly. I have no idea what type of mechanism does this but it is really convenient. Because there’s none else here we decided to have a meal.

I bring out an iron pan, some bread and a fruit that looks like a banana. I pour some milk into there and let it boil and soften. It smells like milk but everyone ate it happily, only an empty pan remains. I decided to discuss the future plans after eating, if we don’t have a plan then it will be hard to achieve anything.

“First I think we should set some aims and a degree of hierarchy before we dive even further.”

Each person responds differently.

“I want to go as deep as possible. I also want to reduce the possibility of us losing as much as possible but I don’t want to face a group of ogres.”

“That’s right. But it takes a while to get back to the surface wouldn’t it be

better to set a goal?"

Amyl and Lelena have different opinions. I turned to Claire to see her opinion.

"I think it is good to decide on a hierarchy, and to set a level as a goal."

I see. By using a level as a goal it is possible to reduce arguments. Amyl is nodding in agreement, it seems we will probably be going with that? As a conclusion we decided on level 20 being the first goal.

With swollen stomachs and restored physical strength we began to make a way to the third floor. I equipped my weapon and watched the movement of the enemies on the map. This allowed us to set up a preemptive strike. I shot flames against an enemy who is waiting in a corner, the enemy was unable to handle the heat and shot out.

Misguided Mushroom : Level 8

The hands and feet of the mushroom are about the size of a child, it's movement is extremely slow. The combat ability of it is small.

Claire was firing arrows from her bow, although the arrows stuck into body the monster kept coming. It's durability is surprising.

"Lets go !"

"Oh!"

Amyl and I whipped out swords and began to challenge the Mushroom at close range. The enemy isn't very agile and I avoided its attack. We both cut at the Mushroom, when I cut the umbrella part of the mushroom it shrank for a moment and then scattered a white powder. I was lucky as I retreated behind a shield. It seems the poison causes illusions.

I, who jumped back was safe but Amyl who was near seems to have breathed in the poisonous powder. Amyl has a warped expression, although he is smiling. Amyl started speaking complete rubbish.

"That -? Wearing clothes and entering the bath? I better take it off before entering"

As he said that he began to take off his pants.

"Kyaaaa!"

"You... Amyl !"

Overwhelmed Claire screamed and averted her eyes. This type of thing is poor for the daughter of the house. I look and Lelena and it seems she is just staring at Amyl. Scary !

Lelena approached Amyl silently. The happy expression of Amyl increased as she approached. Suddenly there is sound of a rod hitting something followed by the air trembling. I also trembled a little. Amyl collapses with his lower body exposed and there is a deep red palm mark on his cheek. Suddenly his expression become one of a person stunned. Lelena's detoxification magic is very reliable it seems.

The battle ended safely, only Amyl is scarred for life.

This time I didn't level up, everyone else did though.

Claire : Level 9

HP 110/110

MP 30/30

Strength : Level 2

Intelligence : Level 1

Luck : Level 2

Possessed skills:

『Archery : Level 1』

Amyl went from level 11 to level 12 and Lelena went from level 10 to level 11.

While I begin a new search Amyl seems to begin remembering what just happened.

“I feel like I want to die right now...”

Amyl muttered with a white face, don't worry. Your most important part is different when compared to normal men. Why is there resentment in your eyes?

Chapter 18: Golem

We reached the 3rd underground floor. Although one of us suffered some mental damage, there's no problem for us to proceed into the dungeon. There are some Blue Slimes, which is the variant species of the Slime appeared after the Dazzle Mushroom, but it can be easily finished with flame magic.

[T.N: I think it sounds better than Misguided Mushroom. The correct term the should be something like Hallucination Mushroom, but Dazzle sounds better to me.]

“How many hours had passed since we enter the dungeon?”

“Around 12 hours. It's been almost half a day.”

It's hard to measure the accurate time in the dungeon. Then how do we measure the time? That's because pocket watch exist. Unlike the mechanical type in the previous world, it's just a simple device using the monster core.

Although there might be some slight error in case of the lack of quality of the monster core, we won't be lacking monster cores to be used as the battery as long as we're in the dungeon.

“Once we find the next rest area, let's sleep there for today”

Did everyone's fatigue got piled up? The answer I got back lacks any power. No wonder. Although there's a lantern, we have been walking and fighting in the darkness for a long time. It's natural to be worn out.

At the rest area, there's already another party resting there before us.

"Yo, thanks for the hard work."

An onii-san who's slightly older than me called out to us, and it seems their party also consist of 4 people like us. With a glance I could tell that their party consist of 2 warriors, 1 thief and one priest.

I thought she was a man at first, but it seems like one of the warriors is a woman. She's huge! Maybe almost 2 meters tall? All the other members are men. This woman seems to have the strongest build amongst them. The average level are around 12, around the same as Amyl?

"Hello. Can we take a break here too?"

"Of course. It's not like it belongs to anyone. Feel free to use it."

I stopped at the corner when he said so. They're good people. When we're preparing for the meal, the slightly older onii-san from before comes near, and it looks like he's trying to trade.

"Our party is on our way back, do you want to buy the leftover food? I'll make it cheap"

Somehow, it seems like they've been working hard in the dungeon for about 2 weeks and raise their level by 1. Since they're only focusing on the first 5th underground floor with the safety zone, it seems like they didn't get that much experience value. As I thought we need to go deeper underground if we really want to raise our level.

Aside from dried meat and cheese, the only things that can be stored for a long time were beans. It seems like there's rice crop somewhere. As it seems to have been widespread around the world, it's not that rare too. However it looks like the only thing made from it was rice gruel as the cooking method for it was not established yet.

While keeping watch in turns between the 2 parties, we decided to take a rest that day. This is because you must not neglect caution even in the safety zone.

Next morning, although it was pitch black, as the pocket watch indicates 6:00 am, we decided to leave. We only had simple meal by eating hard bread poured with water and cheese. I aim towards the lower floor while waving my hand on them who's going back to town.

We immediately descend to the 4th floor, as suddenly enemy reaction appeared at close range.

"There's enemy! It's near. I can't figure out what it is!?"

I immediately warned my companions. Suddenly a part of the passage after the stairs began to move, taking a humanoid shape and attacked. It's golems.

"Since it doesn't react until we approach it, the Map skill might have not been able to recognize it as enemy before."

Although Lelena calmly pointed that out, we postponed the inspection and give priorities on intercepting it for now. The size of the golems are around 2.5 meter? Although the movement is dull, its power is huge. This thing can easily

crush a rock. Since it's made of stone, neither sword nor magic are too effective on it. There's 2 of them. The level is 15. To be honest, it's not an enemy that is at the lower hierarchy of monsters.

I who's the strongest in the party taunts the enemy. I hit the sword on the shield, making some loud noise to attract the attention of the enemy.

"Over here! Bring it on!"

Did it recognize me as the main target? The 2 golems are headed to my way. Anyway I'm done for if I receive a direct attack, so i can do nothing but putting my all in evading. Although I keep on throwing fire ball towards the approaching golems, it doesn't seems like they've received any damage aside from the slight burnt on the surfaced.

"Take this!"

Although Amyl swings his sword from the back, it only shaves a bit of its back. The golem didn't even consider it a threat to turn around. Lelena and Claire also attacks it aiming for the golem's foot, but it was easily warded off since it lacks power.

When I was exchanging blow with a golem, the other golem drove its fist consecutively towards me. As I was desperately continue exchanging blows, I could do nothing aside from receiving it with my shield.

"Guh!"

I got blown off a few meters before getting smashed against the wall. I felt a

tingling sensation from my arm with the shield. Can I handle this? I felt dizzy in the head, like I just got hit by a car. The golem walks slowly, did it plan to give the finishing blow? Isn't this dangerous?

“Master!”

Claire jumped at the head of the golem without a thought. She swings her weapon even when the golem just peels her off. Although the golem keep on flinging its fist at Clair who's smashing its head, Clair just jumps back before that.

The golem lost its balance and fall once the crumbling sound was heard, revealing a shiny stone at the feet of the golem.

“Destroy it!”

Amyl and Lelena both shout and swings their weapon towards the shining stone at the same time. When I heard a cracking sound, the golems falls down and immediately stopped moving.

“Is that its weak point!?”

Using recovery magic on myself, I managed to return to battle somehow. If I know the weak point, I could manage somehow. I sneak behind the golem who's receiving attacks from my companions, and drove my sword inserting it between the golems crotch area. Although I worry that it might get broken, it can't be exchanged with a life.

The golem that got caught by the sword tried to hit Lelena while it falls, but

Claire promptly approaches it and gives the finishing blow. The golem stopped moving once a shattering sound was heard.

When I pick up the sword, there's no noticeable damage. Thank goodness. Please give me a break from having to buy this again.

"Master, do you get injured anywhere!?"

Claire runs up to me and starts checking my body here and there. I'm fine you know? I won't just die and leave you. She seemed to be relieved when I patted her head telling her I'm fine.

"That was dangerous, I thought you were dead."

"I was about to die just now. For now let's collect the monster core."

Although I get tired seeing the small heap of mountain that previously was a golem, I can't really leave such a precious loot either.

Since we can't really act like innocent toddlers playing in sandbox, we dig it up silently.

"Found it."

"I found this one too."

Unlike the monster cores that we collected so far, it emits a faint light. This

seems like it could fetch a good price. Although we encountered an unexpectedly powerful enemies, it seems like we also managed to acquire large amount of experience point from it too.

Est: Level 18

HP 280/280

MP 210/210

Strength 122

Speed 130

Dexterity 129

Defense 133

Wisdom 125

Luck 71

Skills possessed:

『Experience Value Boost : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 2』

『Dexterity Boost : Level 1』

『Mapping : Level 1』

『Wisdom Boost : Level 2』

『Flame Magic : Level 1』

『No Chant : Level 1』

『Speed Boost : Level 1』

『Spy : Level 1』

『Strength Boost : Level 1』

『Defense Boost : Level 1』

『Shield : Level 1』

『Ice Magic : Level 1』

『Recovery Magic : Level 1』

『A new skill can be acquired. Please select from the list』

『HP Boost』

『MP Boost』

『Luck Boost』

『Shield : Level 2』

Claire : Level 12

HP 180/180

MP 48/48

Strength 59

Speed 93

Dexterity 89

Defense 52

Wisdom 41

Luck 73

Skill Possessed:

『Archery : Level 1』

『Evasion : Level 1』

[T.N: Raws said “みかわし”(Mikawashi), google said it’s related to the armor in DQ that’s somehow related to evasion so that’s my best guess.]

Amyl rose from Level 12 to 14. Lelena also went up from 11 to 13 respectively. Claire seems to have acquired a new skill. Is it because it managed to avoid the golems attack at that time causing to to self destruct? If her security increases then its all good.

I strongly realize the lack of defense this time. Although we might be able to handle the golem once we're at high level, we can't afford to raise that many level for now. Lets cover it up with technique. So with that, I acquired 『Shield: Level 2』.

Chapter 19: Dragon Fang Warrior

After spending a whole day we finally arrived at the 4th floor. I wonder if this is normal for a beginner in dungeon. From my talk with Amyl on the journey, I understood that this dungeon is not really popular with the adventurers. Although it's good for get treasures and raising levels, there are many adventurers who don't like it.

It wears you physically and mentally, and you need to manage the limited water and food, and you're also unable to sleep soundly as you need to place guards in turn. You can't take bath for days and had to settle for just washing your face, and you can't even brush your teeth. You can't do anything about the restroom aside from making a basic cover.

I heard that once you get stinky your companions will get disgusted at you. With that reasons it seems like there's a lot of dissatisfaction especially from the female adventurers.

Although I'm slightly better to some degree do to being able to use flame and ice magic, as there are rarely any humans that can use both of the contradicting flame and ice magic, most adventurers will give off strong body odor most of the time when they left the dungeon.

Even though it can be solved by having 2 magicians that can use either one of it, the required amount of food and drink will increase when the number of people increases, so I heard that a party that consist of 2 magicians are not that many as the divided treasures will also decrease.

The same can be said about the party that we passed before, as they might have been in a similar situation. The smell like a dust cloth used to wipe milk that had been left to dry drifted when we passed by each other. I had to stop breathing at once and proceed. Amyl seems to change to breathing with his mouth open to keep on moving. He looks like a fool. As for Claire who's a beastman that have sharper sense of smell than us humans, her eyes are full of tears.

"I really want to take a bath..."

"I know right..."

Even if we know that's impossible, I guess it can't be help for the girls to say it. Even if we do have the tools, there's no way for us to carry the tub and barrel. We can do nothing but endure it here.

The stairs to the 5th floor finally came into view on the map. After that one surprise attack from the golem, our pace had slowed down. This is also because I've come to realize that the map is not that almighty. Although it's still better than nothing as it reduces the risk of danger when we encountered the monster at the lower floor.

And there seems to be enemy reactions blocking the way to the stairs. The number is 1. Its rare for them to act alone. Could it be a very strong enemy?

When it came into view, it looks like a normal skeleton. However, a normal skeleton use the bones of a dead human, so the shape like a pterosaur wings should not exist at its back. The skull is clearly not that of a human too. This looks more like the reptile series, like a crocodile.

“Dragon Fang Warrior...”

Amyl mutters that with an absentminded expression. Dragon Fang Warrior? If my game knowledge is correct, it's a powerful enemy with the soul of a skilled warrior and the bones of the dragon. Although they're not as good as they are during their lifetime, it is said that they're strong enough to cut down dozens of incompetent adventurers.

Dragon Fang Warrior : Level 25

Why is such a strong class monster appears here!? I unsheathe my sword preparing for the worst case where it's impossible to escape. My companions also ready their weapons with a desperate look.

I can see some adventurers that had been defeated lying below its feet. They might be running away from the lower floor, and then it was likely that it has chased after them until here and got defeated. It's unlikely that they're alive..

However, I can't really think like that. They're adventurers that had managed to reach a floor where the Dragon Fang Warriors finally appeared. There's a high chance that they're just wounded.

“Let's go!”

I steeled myself and dashed out. Amyl got a bit delayed, but still continue forward. Claire and Lelena had scattered to the left and right. Although my first swing was aiming for the front of its head, it was easily blocked by the shield. A sharp counter was used in return, moving it outwards with the shield.

Although Amyl managed to sneak in the back and attack the skeleton at the same time as me, it just moved the left arm with the shield towards the back and flip it back. All of that while still handling with my sword only with its right hand. It take notice of Amyl while still having a one on one with me. Dammit! We're at our best here, and this guy still have room to spare.

Once we got separated in the middle of the clash, it suddenly fly towards Amyl while applying a kick. That bone on the back is not just a decoration!?"

"cough"

Amyl who got kicked in the abdomen stops his attack momentarily. the skeleton suddenly do a downward swing with the intentions of beheading Amyl, and although Lelena suddenly appears to catch the attack, the sword still swung downward with a slash.

"Lelena!"

Amyl gave a sorrowful shout while lelena falls down. I managed to stop it from giving the finishing blow by blowing it with my shield, and Amyl suddenly rushed forward while raising a shout.

"OOOOOOOOOOOHHHH!"

Approaching the skeleton, against Amyl who desperately swings his sword, that monster is not so naive as to let that chance miss. It moves in motion and apply a single blow from the side to the stomach of the defenseless Amyl.

"Guh!"

Swinging his sword with the best of his ability without minding the vomited blood and damage taken, Amyl managed to crush the skeleton's right shoulder. Amyl that exhausted all of his power falls down at that place.

At that moment, Claire who's been waiting for a chance rushed forward, throwing her dagger at the skeleton's right leg. A part of the knee of the right foot broke and scattered, did the damage given by the previous adventurers accumulated?

When I give a blow to the skeleton's head that was lying down, the skeleton's body began to crumble. Did we managed to beat it?

When I runs towards Lelena and Amyl in a panic to heal them, the two people stood up like there's no injury on them at all.

"Eh?"

Ah, I see. Did you guys level up? I forgot that we will completely recovered when it happens.

Est : Level 20

HP 320/320

MP 235/235

Strength 138

Speed 145

Dexterity 141

Defense 137

Wisdom 145

Luck 85

Skill Possessed:

『Experience Value Boost : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 2』

『Dexterity Boost : Level 1』

『Mapping : Level 1』

『Wisdom Boost : Level 2』

『Flame Magic : Level 1』

『No Chant : Level 1』

『Speed Boost : Level 1』

『Spy : Level 1』

『Strength Boost : Level 1』

『Defense Boost : Level 1』

『Shield : Level 2』

『Ice Magic : Level 1』

『Recovery Magic : Level 1』

『A new skill can be acquired. Please select from the list below』

『HP Boost』

『MP Boost』

『Luck Boost』

『Flame Magic : Level 2』

『Ice Magic : Level 2』

『Dexterity Boost : Level 2』

Claire : Level 16

HP 240/240

MP 63/63

Strength 79

Speed 115

Dexterity 120

Defense 70

Wisdom 56

Luck 90

Skill Possessed:

『Archery : Level 1』

『Evasion : Level 1』

『Swordsmanship : Level 1』

Amyl went up from Level 14 to 17. Lelena went up from 13 to 16 respectively. Did I finally hit the level 20 mark? We've been here for so long. As Claire had a chance to use her sword, she also managed to acquire the Swordsmanship skill

Fighting with only physical attack had become hard right now, so with that, this time I choose to acquire the 『Flame Magic : Level 2』.

Chapter 20: Baby Dragon

We arrived at the 5th floor. There a safety zone created by the guild in this floor. The degree of danger will definitely jump up after this floor.

First of all let's check everyone's conditions. Everyone had recovered completely thanks to the level up, but just to be sure.

Amyl's armor had one wide open cut near the stomach, but he managed to avoid instant death since he had a chain mail equipped below it. As for his armor, the part below the stomach had been torned up to his feet, obstructing his movement. There's no way he could act like this with his bottom part obstructed.

Although Lelena got equipped with an iron breastplate, there's a cut from her left shoulder to her chest. Isn't that a lethal wound? If our level did not immediately went up, it's possible that she might have been dead.

The two of them should buy their armor again once we returned to town. The monster core we obtained from the Dragon Fang Warrior shined in green. Since its from a high level enemy, it's likely that it would fetch a high price.

Next, I tried the power of the Flame Magic Level 2. I began shooting the flame ball normally, but it seems to have double the power, and it seems like I can use another type.

Although the size of the fireball is as big as a soccer ball, it only exploded without scattering any flame. when I try experimenting by shooting it to the

ground, a big explosion occurred destroying the surrounding rock wall, creating a small crater on the ground. This looks like it will be effective on enemy with hard armor.

Now then, although the armor is a bit unreliable, let's continue our exploration.

When we advanced forward, immediately there's enemies reaction. The map shows that it's a place like a large hall. The enemies doesn't move from there. The number is 10. There's quite a lot huh.

When I carefully sneak in to peep at the status of the enemy, I was able to see many goblins with huge bodies. There's also goblins holding a cane among them.

"They're Hobgoblins and Goblin Shaman."

Amyl tells me that in a low whisper. I see, it's like that huh? It must be the high rank goblins. Will the shaman be able to summon anything?

"Something's not right. Although usually they could summon the spirit of the dead and deploy them, it seems that they're able to summon a strong demon too. We can't be careless here."

[T.N:They're talking about the Dragon Tusk Warriors being summoned by the shamans]

That's right. Let's attack with my best effort right from the start without being careless. I'll let you test the new explosion magic I just learned. I work out an image where it would hit the ground at the center of the goblins. The goblins

suddenly began making a commotion, did they sensed our presence?

I jump out of the cover, shooting the magic as well as preparing my shield. A ball of light flew at high speed and hit the ground at the center of the goblins. When the air shook, an explosion roared and the shock wave scattered to the surroundings. Pieces of the goblin's hands and feet flew around, while the enemy reactions decreased one after another.

We readied our weapons and charge forward. Although there's still half of the enemies left, the ones that survived were injured so there's no way we would lose.

I dash forwards and cut off the neck of one Hobgoblin's head. Amyl chops off the arm of the Hobgoblin that tried to attack me, and I slashed its stomach, killing it. When I move my eyes to find the next target, an arrow sticks to the head of a goblin between the eyes. You can do it, Claire. Lelena was fighting with the Goblin Shaman, smashing its head with the morning star. That's scary.

The only one left was a Goblin Shaman. But before we could kill it, it had finished the summoning. The space distorted next to the Goblin Shaman, there's a sign that something big is coming from the inside.

Although Claire managed to kill the Goblin Shaman with her bow and arrow, there's no sign that the summoning is interrupted.

The head is the first that appeared. It's a head of a big lizard covered in rugged scales, pushing itself from the distorted space.

"Baby Dragon!"

Lelena shouts with a tensed voice. That dragon is still a baby even with that size. It will definitely be stronger than the average monsters. However, there no rules stating that I need to wait for the whole body to appear. I'm the type of man that if I had a chance will attack the robot when they're combining.

I cut the dragon that only appears until the shoulder, and it raised an angry roar as it can't move. It's the moment that I've been waiting for!

At the same moment it opens its mouth wide, I shoot the explosion magic right inside the mouth. A great explosion occurred inside the dragon's body when it closed its mouth by reflex. The dragon's mouth split when the explosion sound was heard, popping out its eyeballs. Its outsides might be tough, but the same can't be said about the insides.

The completely dead dragon, only had its whole body summoned after it became a corpse. I managed to defeat it without a scratch.

"You...I've never heard of such a method."

Everyone had a dumbfounded look when they see me. Is it wrong to have an easy win?

"Let's quickly collect the monster core"

I calmed everyone and ask them to confirm our loot. Hobgoblin's meat can't be used. Since you're going to have a loose stomach if you eat them, no one wants to eat it. I managed to get a red monster core from a black goblin. This should fetch some high price.

However, the dragon contains so many rare material that it can be said that its whole body is a treasure. Although it's not an adult dragon and just a baby, it would still fetch a high price.

When I confirmed the fully summoned dragon's body again, it seems that it doesn't have wings, the so called Earth Dragon. The length is around 5 meters? Although it's a bit small for a dragon, it's bigger than a human. I wonder what would happen if I fought it directly?

I pull out the fangs from what remains of this head. They seems to have used this as a catalyst for the Dragon Fang Warrior that tormented us. Next, I separated the body by parts as I decided to collect the meat as much as possible. Dragon's meat seem to bring good luck, so it seems to be popular among adventurers.

Although most of the internal organs were ruined by the explosion magic, fortunately one of the two hearts remain intact.

[T.N: Either the dragons in that world had 2 hearts, or I made a mistake somewhere]

"I heard that it could be sold for 10 gold coins."

Amyl is in good spirits. I'm surprised that it's higher than I had thought. I put the eyeballs that popped out inside the bag, and starts tearing the scales. Somehow it feels like tearing off scabs for some reason, so I'm kind of disgusted right now.

Since we can't take it all because of the unreasonable amount, we only select

those of the highest quality. There's a scale especially different quality from the rest. Its called the reverse scale, the piece called the dragon's weak point.

Finally I collected the monster core. Although it's the size that fits the palm of my hand, its purity is obviously different from the normal core even if it was seen by amateur. I took the monster core of the Hobgoblin to compare the extent of the difference, this one had a jewel-like beauty.

I didn't forget to burn the leftover unnecessary materials with flame magic. It's going to be troublesome if it becomes an undead.

[T.N: Eat them you fools. It's a motherfuckin Dragon's motherfuckin meat.]

And now for the level up. Although we obtained a lot from defeating the Hobgoblins, most of the experience value was obtained from the dragon.

Est: Level 23

HP 360/360

MP 255/255

Strength 155

Speed 163

Dexterity 158

Defense 157

Wisdom 170

Luck 94

Skill Possessed:

『Experience Value Boost: Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 2』

『Dexterity Boost : Level 2』

『Mapping : Level 1』

『Wisdom Boost : Level 2』

『Flame Magic : Level 2』

『No Chant : Level 1』

『Speed Boost : Level 1』

『Stealth : Level 1』 [T.N:I translate it as “Spy” before, but this sounds better]

『Strength Boost : Level 1』

『Defense Boost : Level 1』

『Shield : Level 2』

『Ice Magic : Level 1』

『Healing Magic : Level 1』

『A new skill can be acquired. Please choose from the list』

『HP Boost』

『MP Boost』

『Luck Boost』

『Ice Magic : Level 2』

『Dexterity Boost : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

Claire : Level 20

HP 280/280

MP 81/81

Strength 99

Speed 140

Dexterity 151

Defense 93

Wisdom 76

Luck 112

Skill Possessed:

『Archery: Level 2』

『Evasion: Level 1』

『Swordsmanship: Level 1』

Amyl went up from Level 17 to 21. Lelena went up from 16 to 20 respectively.

I decided to take 『Swordsmanship: Level 3』 this time [T.N:*Facepalm*]. For the skill level in this world, 1 is for the inexperienced, and level 2 is for when some general training had been taken. 3 is for expert. 4 is a master. 5 basically means there's nothing left for you to master regarding that skill.

I will be able to move the same like an expert with this. Claire's level in Archery has also increased. In her case, it seems like her actual skills are higher than stated. It won't be long before she overtake me in Speed and Dexterity.

All the members managed to reach the original goal of getting to Level 20. Although we still have a few more days to spare, let's consult with everyone to decided whether to advance or return.

Chapter 21: Promotion

“Since we already reach the target Level, what do you want to do? Should we return like this?”

Everyone looked at each other for my question.

“I think I want to return. After all I’m worried about the quest. We may fail if we rust it at the last minute.”

“I also agree. Being too greedy is not a good thing.”

“That’s right. Although it’s a bit earlier than a week, I think we should return.”

It seems like everyone doesn’t have any problem with returning. Then let’s return to town.

There’s not much trouble happening during the return. The powerful enemy like the Dragon Fang Warrior and the dragon should not appear that many times, so from the 5th floor there’s only the small fry monsters that appeared like the slimes and goblins.

Compared to when we entered the dungeon, our strength had increased by leaps and bounds. The levels that were usually required years of raising carefully, we managed to reach Level 20 thanks to my skill. Excluding me all of us managed to more than doubled our level.

“Once we leave the dungeon, we might be able to rank up.”

Although Amyl said that jokingly, it became a reality when we returned. When they purchased the material and monster core at the Guild's branch office near the dungeon, it caused a little bit of an uproar.

"From what kind of monster did you get this green monster core from? ...A dragon Fang Warrior!? It is said that a monster core like this is could only be from a dragon...are you guys really bronze rank!?"

The onee-san at the reception desk got a little bit excited. After confirming that we did not swindle it from other people or doing any kind of fraud, when I show the materials that we took from the dragon I defeated, they asked us to wait because they need to discuss it for a while.

"I wonder how much they'll buy it?"

"Even just that dragon's monster core should fetch a considerable sum."

Amyl seems to be happy. To renew his worn out equipment, he's going to be in trouble if he doesn't have the money.

"Sorry to have kept you waiting."

While we were filling our belly at the roasted meat stall, the voice of the receptionist onee-san called for us.

First of all the monster core from the giant bat are 5 copper coins each. Cheap! Since its a small fries like the slime so I guess it can't be helped?

Next, the monster core from the Dazzle mushrooms are also 5 copper coins...

is that for real? Since Amyl's trauma is priceless.

Next is the monster core from the two golems. Each of them cost 1 gold and 5 silver coins respectively. Considering I broke my arm as well as getting real close to death, it really fetch a good sum of money.

The monster core from the Dragon Fang Warrior is sold for 5 gold coins. I guess its higher since we almost got annihilated from it. Still, a common family could live without working for a while with this amount.

And finally the main highlight of the day, the dragon's monster core and materials. First of all the monster core is 20 gold coins. The heart is 10 gold coins. The total amount for the scale, eyeball, meat and others becomes around 15 gold coins. It's a terribly huge amount of money. What would happen if it's not an infant dragon but an adult instead? I feel like I understood a bit the adventurers who challenged the dragons seeking wealth and fame.

Everything in total is 46 gold and 1 silver coins. After consulting with everyone, we decided to divide it equally into 4, where each person get 11 gold and 5 silver coins. The leftover from the sold monster core of the slime and goblins are removed from the decided amount and given to me. I was able to earn a bit.

"As I thought we really earned a lot from Est's skill. The levels and money we gained would usually take us years to reach."

"That's right. Not to mention in just 3 to 4 days."

"Master, want me to massage your shoulder?"

"Thank you Claire. Let me rub the different part of Clair's instead...no its nothing."

While we're talking to kill some time, the result of the discussion about our rank up came out. Our tensions are high.

"Congratulation. Everyone got promoted to silver ranks."

When the receptionist onee-san said that with a smile, a shout of joys broke out from everyone. Amyl was spinning together with Lelena, while Lelena hugs Amyl's head going "kya-kya". Claire got excited and start shaking my hands while saying "Rank up! We managed to rank up, master!" repeatedly. Oh, her tail stands vertically. Are you happy? What a cute girl.

Of course I'm happy too. Since we manage to obtain such a huge income, we'll be having a feast tonight!

But, before that, let's do that thing first. After promising to meet up at the hotel we just registered, Clair and I parted with Amyl and head to the Merchant Guild.

When I ask the usual unfriendly old man at the reception desk about the matter of the request, it seems like it had already produced results.

"I've mark the ogre's lair. With this your request had been completed. The result is not from that long ago."

"Thank you very much. I'm saved with this."

After I received the map from the old man, we head to the hotel where the feast took place.

“Master, what kind of business did you do with them?”

“It’s just something like an insurance. But it would be nice if everything ends up peacefully though.”

I pat Claire’s curious head. That day all of us got a hangover without exceptions.

Chapter 22: Holiday

The next day, the dazzling morning sun which leaked from the gap of the closed window woke me up. Since my head is ringing due to the hangover, I try using healing magic as an experiment. I feel slightly better now. Did the hangover considered as abnormal status?

The door made a creaking sound when opened, and Claire comes back into the room with a pitcher.

“Good morning. Master...I got some water...”

Did she still worried about me even when she herself got a hangover? She such a good girl after all. I ask her to sit down and not overdoing it while applying the healing magic. Her complexion gradually returned when the nausea got reduced.

“Since the city should be open by now, shall we go shopping after breakfast?”

It was decided during yesterday's feast, that today will be a holiday. As we still have time until the deadline of the quest, and not to mention all that stress piled up when going into the dungeon. I felt that it should be pleasant to bathe in the light today outside.

I got hungry once I recovered from the hangover. Although I wasn't aware of it, the amount that I eat after I become an adventurer had increased. Since there's no significant changes to my weight even when I eat a lot, I guess the necessary amount of energy needed by the body increases when the maximum HP increased. Since the entire party member aside from me also turn like this, I guess it's the same for all adventurers.

A fragrant smell of roasted meat drifter from one of the stalls, it seems like I can win against my appetite in the morning. Unintentionally I drifted to the stall, seeing the big lump of meat getting roasted. Cutting it thinly with a knife, it was placed in between a cut bread along with multiple vegetables. It's just like the dish called Doner kebab in the former world.

I ask the old man of the stall for the share of 2 people, and bite on it on the spot. The burning hot meat juice begin to overflow in my mouth, the melting cheese favors it well making it very delicious. I would be able to eat it non-stop if it's like this. After I asked for another one on the spot, we decided to continue shopping.

Since we've just bought our equipment it's unnecessary for now. Although I want to go to the clothe shop to purchase everyday wear first, we decided to take a bath first. Since we start having a feast as soon as we exit the dungeon yesterday, we got drunk and unable to take a bath.

Fortunately, from the information heard from the owner of the hotel we're

staying last night to have a feast, the 『Golden Sheep pavilion』, there's a public bath in this Koper town.

The public bath in this world seems to be open for 24 hours thanks to the monster core. It's convenient since they only need to use the monster core to heat it up. We arrived at the entrance divided by gender. As expected, it's not mixed bathing huh?

Once we pay the fee at the entrance, we received a soap in distorted form, a tower and a small pail. Its easy since you don't need to prepare it yourself. Its slightly smaller than the public bath in Japan if you compared it by the area, the sole bathtub they have is pretty huge. There's no sauna as they doesn't seem to have an idea to enjoy the hot water in more than one ways.

I think there's not that many visitor right now because of the time, so there's no atmosphere where fellow adventurers and old men coming here right after finishing their works.

I immediately scoop the hot water and pour it on my head. Although I tried to shampooed my hair by getting it wet enough, It doesn't go that well. An uncle beside me pass me some powdered soap. Apparently, the soap powder is a different product used for the hair. They should have said that earlier.

Although I washed my body after owing to that uncle, somehow it doesn't foam that well. It seems that I've accumulated a lot of dirt after not taking a

bath for a few days. After washing myself, I slowly soak into the bathtub.

“Ah~ that hits the spot...”

I entered the tub and said something like an old person. Everybody can say that right? When I felt refreshed and goes out of the bath, Claire is already waiting for me. A kind person seems to have shared the soap powder with Claire, so I could smell some good fragrance of the soap on her.

When I brought my nose close and sniff her, Claire was blushing beet red. Sexual harassment is not good in the morning. Let try to be prudent. Next is the clothes shop.

“Is there any clothes that Claire wants?”

“Since I don’t have a lot of clothes, can master choose some for me?”

I’ll choose. Let’s choose the clothes that suits her the most. We entered the commercial district that’s a little bit further from the town where the slightly big stores lined up. For the time being we entered a shop that has a picture of a clothes as a signboard, and it seems to be a shop that handles clothes with a little bit of high quality.

“Welcome. What kind of clothes are you looking for? With The current season, the popular color is-”

The clerk starts talking on her own even when I’m not listening, I ignore her while sometimes making response like I agree with her. Is the clerk in clothes shop act the same even in a different world?

I looked around the shop in general while choosing clothes which might seems suitable for Claire. It’s a dress for everyday wear with combined upper and lower part. It’s black in color with the left and right breast connected with a string. The size can be adjusted with this string for the heavily endowed or the poorly endowed person. The skirt length a little bit above the knee. A while lace is decorated on a part of the hem. It looks great coupled with Claire’s red hair.

Next are pajamas. Although it seems that normally the woman of this world wears a white negligee type, I daringly chose the white camisole type. Since the lower part is a skirt type, it can be treated like an everyday wear even when she goes out...is what I think. Although Claire looks a little bit bashful, she seems to like it.

The price is 1 gold coin for two. Although it’s considerably expensive for an everyday wear, there’s no problem with it as I can request a daily healing with this.

“Thank you very much Master! I’ll treasure it!”

I'm satisfied with it since I was able to see Claire smile brightly while hugging the clothes that I bought. Although I did buy my everyday wear, it's just polo shirts with a pair of trousers along with a matching jacket. I chose the cheapest jersey type pajamas made of cotton, so the price is only 1 silver coin for two. It's one tenth compared to Claire's, but a man is good in anything.

Afterwards, we looked around the town while heading back to the hotel. Since Claire immediately wear her pajamas and shows her lovely appearance to me, I'm getting desperate at controlling my desires. Today is quite refreshing for a change. I'll be able to work hard tomorrow.

Chapter 23: Quest and Surprise Attack

According to the information from the Merchant Guild, the nest of the Ogres seems to be a cave in the interior of the forest north from the highway. We managed to get enough rest from the holiday, unlike at the time we receive the quest, we left for the Ogre's subjugation with confidence that we'll be able to win no matter what.

Amyl used that one day to change his equipment. His armor had been changed from the chain mail to a plate mail, and Lelena equips a robe as well as a brand new iron breastplate.

[T.N: Is it just me, or does breastplate sounds kind of sexy to you? (◡‿◡)]

"Although it's a bit expensive but we've manage to obtain a pretty good thing."

Amyl is in a cheerful spirit. Looking at him with the armor on he really looks like a full-fledged knight. However, although the full body iron armor looks like it has a high defense, it looks hard to move in it. If there's a lighter material with the same defense, I really want to obtain it.

The forest surrounding the destination came into our view. According to the Merchant Guild, I should aimed at the depth where a ribbon is tied up to a branch. Although some monsters seemed to settle down in this forest, since the Ogres had made a nest, weaker monsters seemed to have moved to another place.

There's no enemy reactions on the map. As we approach near the enemy's sphere of influence, I slowly gave a warning to my companions.

"Remember, don't forgive anyone that came to attack us. If they're trying to harm us, they are our enemies."

"What are you talking about? Isn't that kind of thing obvious?"

Amyl had a wandering looks while Claire looks puzzled. But the sensitive Lelena seems to have noticed the meaning of my words.

"Yes. I won't hold back when the time comes."

She declared that like making someone else aside from us listen to it. Although its bad for those two people who can't fathom the situation, let's do the Ogre subjugation as it is.

Two lookouts were set up at the entrance of the Ogre's nest. According to the information, the number of Ogres confirmed seems to be between 10 to 20. Although the odds are low for the previous us, right now there's no problem.

First of all Claire shoots her arrow continuously, killing one of the lookout. I chanted for the fireball in succession, burning the other one. The Ogre who got roasted starts screaming as the flame furiously burned its body.

As I've perceived two more reactions from inside the cave moving to the entrance, I understood that they've noticed the incident. I once again aim the fireball towards the Ogre coming from the entrance. Although the Ogre hit by the flame falls down, the following Ogre stepped over it and jumped outside.

When it discovered us already waiting in front of the entrance, it raise an axe and fiercely attacks. However the current me can see the attacks clearly. Swordsmanship Level 3 is not just for show.

I evade the lowered axe with some margin, and pierced my sword into the Ogre's throat. Suddenly an Ogre with a particularly big, red body attacks me from the back of the Ogre that had died. According to the request book, this guy should be the leader of the group.

While I was crossing sword with it, the other ogres have been decreased one after another by my companions. Claire always aims for the head with her arrows, not wasting a single arrow. Since half-assed attacks won't work on the

Ogre's robust body, it should be a correct answer to aim at the head with bow and arrows.

Lelena corners her opponents while avoiding the attacks from left and right. Hammering her morning star into the opponent's body whenever she had a chance, carving out the meat and crushing the bones, until they gradually worn out and got knocked down in the end.

Amyl snatches his opponent's weapon and swung the axe downward, splitting the head that had becomes defenseless in half. As the level rises, it seems the power also rises considerably.

When most of the ogres had been subjugated, the last one jump out from the cave. Although this ogre is slightly smaller than the other ogres, it had yellow body hair while holding a cane. It's a Yellow Ogre. Since it can use magic, I can't put my guard down.

When it brandish its cane, several flame arrows shot towards Amyl from there. Although Claire and Lelena managed to avoid it without any difficulty, Amyl who had to carry the weight of the plate mail can't avoid it easily.

"Hot!"

One of the arrows Amyl failed to avoid directly hits his stomach. Although the person in question got burnt, he seems to be safe. Lelena runs forward while

Claire shoots the arrows to restrain it, the ogre's cane was sent flying. Amyl plunge forward with his large sword slashing against the body of the ogre.

With this it's a wipeout aside from the Red Ogre. the quest will be complete once I kill this guy. The ogre's attacks lacked in vividness, did it get upset that its companions got defeated? I'm not so naive as to miss this chance.

I apply some power and attacks the foot of the ogre, I cast flame magic at point-blank range to stop its movement. I beheaded the ogre covered in flames, splitting its neck. With this the quest is complete. Next is the level up:

Est : Level 24

HP 370/370

MP 264/264

Strength 171

Speed 182

Dexterity 178

Defense 169

Wisdom 179

Luck 101

Skill Possessed:

『Experience Value Up : Level 2』[T.N: Before I translate it as “Boost”, but since

the raws directly said “Up”, I’ll us “Up” even though “Boost” sounds better.]

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

『Dexterity Up : Level 1』

『Mapping : Level 1』

『Wisdom Up : Level 2』

『Flame Magic : Level 2』

『No Chant : Level 1』

『Speed Up : Level 1』

『Stealth : Level 1』

『Strength Up : Level 1』

『Defense Up : Level 1』

『Shield : Level 2』

『Ice Magic : Level 1』

『Healing Magic : Level 1』

『A new skill can be obtained. Please choose from the list:』

『HP Up』

『MP Up』

『Luck Up』

『Ice Magic : Level 2』

『Dexterity Up : Level 2』

Claire : Level 22

HP 310/310

MP 92/92

Strength 104

Speed 165

Dexterity 163

Defense 99

Wisdom 83

Luck 130

Skill Possessed:

『Archery : Level 2』

『Evasion : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 1』

Amyl went from Level 21 to 22. Lelena went from 20 to 21 respectively.

I think it's time to put my hands on the HP and MP improvement system that I've neglected for a while now. So with that I acquired the 『HP Up : Level 1』.

『As HP Up : Level 1 was obtained, acquired the derivative skill HP
Regeneration : Level 1』

Ooh, can I recover faster with this thing? If I could recover while I was crossing swords with the enemy, it could be considered a fortunate skill. Claire's Evasion had increase to level 2. She had become considerably strong.

Although we should feel relieved that we've completed the quest, there's still some problems left. At that time, a fireball was suddenly shot towards us by someone, but I instantly intercept it with my own fireball. A new battle start.

Chapter 24: Surprise Attacker

“Wh-what happen!?”

With that sudden attack, both Amyl and Claire were surprised while I was countering it.

“Over there!”

Lelena seems to have perceives where the people who did the surprise attack are at. When Claire looks there ready to shoot her arrows, the 3 good looking people that I had quarreled with before in the guild appears.

“Dammit! How can he detect our hiding!?”

The person cursed while readying his weapon. Oh come on, how are you going to sneak on me who has the Map skill?

“What hiding? I noticed from the very beginning. I’ve been watching you for some time now. You didn’t notice?”

I slowly turned my weapon, saying that while half-smiling.

Now is the time to reveal the tricks. Before we dive into the dungeon after receiving the request, I had asked the Merchant Guild to search for the Ogre’s nest. Since there’s a high chance that the people we’re argued with at the guild

will try to interfere, I also paid to keep watch of them.

Since they always looks down on others with their showy equipment, it's easy to keep track on these self-conscious people. And if we have to resolve to using force, I've also made a contract to have a witness. I'm sure that we are currently being watched.

There's a reason for the colored ribbon for the ogre's nest. The blue one in the forest is for the ogre's nest. The red one is to warn us that these guys are also lurking in the forest. Lelena seems to have noticed this precautions.

The handsome guy was biting his teeth when he heard my explanation. He should be frustrated. When they're planning to steal the achievements of the Bronze-class, they're the one dancing in my palm instead.

"In that case if we also kill the witness there won't be any problems. Do you think that you Bronze class can defeat us?"

He declared that they will kill us while showing a dark smile. How stupid. In case that they were able to defeat us here, there's no reason for the employed observer from the Merchant Guild to just wait there forever. There's no way that the current us would be defeated by them though. It's already checkmate for these guys the moment they attacked us.

"Who are you calling Bronze-class? Don't you understand anything when you look at our level?"

Do they doubt it I wonder, as the face of the handsome guy that confirmed our levels was warped in astonishment.

“Wh, how!? They’re only around Level 10 a while ago!”

“You’re kidding right!? there’s no way they could raise it up that much in such a short time!”

“Th-that’s right! They must have use something to trick us somehow!”

Geez. The situation won’t improve even if you deny the reality that happens in front of you. However I have no intentions of waiting for these guys to recover from the surprised state. I shoot fireball without chanting by working out the imagination.

“Uwa!”

But as expected of Silver-class adventurers, they managed to avoid it even while being surprised. Once the heat wave from the flame cause the opposite side to scattered while frowning, we begin our attacks.

Claire and Lelena are facing the female wizard. Although the flame magic could be said to be able to kill Claire without letting them approach, as Claire was using her bow at the back, the female wizard can only go on the defense as Lelena attacks with her morning star.

The arrow shot by Claire hit and pierced the female wizard’s shoulder. As she screamed while dropping her cane, Lelena came charging with her whole body, directly hitting her from the side.

“Gubeh!”

And that voice that sounds like a crushed frog was her last sentence before she collapsed. It's possible that most of her ribs are broken right now. She's holding her side while writhing in pain. Seeing as she vomits blood, her internal organs might have been seriously damaged.

Amyl is fighting with the other guy. Although at first Amyl can't reach him because of the difference in reach between a sword and a spear, as he gradually became accustomed to his opponent's attack pattern, he's able to ward off the attacks pretty well.

"Triple Thrust!"

That man shouts and activate a skill. It's a 3 continuous blows piercing at high speed, and although Amyl managed to parry 2 of it with his sword, he missed the third one.

"I did it!"

The moment when the man shouts thinking the spear had gone through Amy's body, Amyl twists his body while the spear passed his armor making a creaking sound. And then Amyl managed to slip in front of the completely defenseless guy while holding his sword. This is the 『Bamboo Splitter』 that Amyl is proud of.

"Deyaaa!"

A single swing falls down with a shout, and the man throws away his weapon at once trying to protect his head with both of his arms, but the single blow from Amyl cuts off both of his arms, and it still has the power to crush his armor

at the same time. The man collapsed without uttering a single thing.

Only the handsome guy left as he was fighting me. We're on even terms when the combat start, but the difference in skills gradually began to appear. Although we keep on attacking while inflicting wounds on each other, that handsome man is a pure warrior type while I'm a magic warrior type than can use magic.

The effect of 『Hp Regeneration : Level 1』 that I obtained while fighting with the Ogres is bigger than I thought. Although we're inflicting the same wounds to each other, my wounds heals after a moment. To the handsome guy that has no means of recovery, his odds of winning decreases as time passes.

“Dammit! Are you an Undead!?”

“Sorry to tell you this but I'm human! It's just that I'm stronger than you!”

The handsome guy keeps on cursing. But is that okay? It's dangerous if you stops moving. Did you forget that I could use magic without any need for chanting!?

I work out an image the moment he stops moving. I shot a huge flame magic from point-blank range, swallowing the whole body of the handsome guy instantly.

“Gyaaaaaaah!”

Although he throws his weapon and keeps on rolling on the ground to put down the fire, unfortunately we're in the woods. The water source is far away, and I'm not such a good-natured person that would help someone who

declared that they will kill us. His movements slows down after rolling for a while, before he stops moving completely.

“It’s over”

“Geez, what’s wrong with these guys? Are you going to kill someone only because of that?”

Everyone gathers while sheathing their weapons. The female wizard is the only one from the enemy party that survived. But her conditions is still dangerous. We tied her hands and mouth after taking away her cane, I healed her to the extent where she can walk.

Without any sound, a man with a face mask suddenly appeared. This fellow should be the the observer that I asked for from the Merchant Guild. When I once again ask this fellow to testify for what these people’s action, I passed a silver coin asking this fellow to handle the female wizard. He nods and handles the woman.

The woman could only glance at us with a haggard look. A person attacking another person with the intention to kill will be turned into a slave. At worse she might be beheaded. Either way her hell is sure to start from now on.

I decided to gather the remains of the dead bodies of the handsome man and the other guy to burn, it’s their consequences for their bad choice. As they might turn into Undead if we bury them, I’ll at least give this much mercy.

The request is completed although with some trouble. My hand and feet trembles a bit after feeling relieved. Unlike killing monsters, killing humans will leave some mental damage as I thought. Lets return to town and have a slow rest with Claire today.

Chapter 25: Claire's Feeling

My name is Claire. I'm a beastman from the cat tribe who turns 15 this year, also I'm Master's slave.

I met Master for the first time in the carriage carrying the slaves. There were three reactions of the people who looked at slave so far. One where it's like they're looking at something dirty, one whose eyes tainted with desire, and one who acts like the slave is not even there.

However, Master's reaction is different from those. After being surprised, he quietly observes me, while glancing at my ears and tail with excited looks.

At that time I do think it's slightly unpleasant. However after he talks to me during camp guard, I no longer felt like that.

As there are a lot of people in similar situation like me, when I heard about the life story of a common slaves, I was a bit sad. That night, although we received the goblin's surprise attack, Master knocks them down one after another alone, annihilating the goblins before they could even do anything to me.

From that time Master is already extremely strong. There's rarely anyone who could master the way of the sword and magic at the same time.

When Master takes the slaves that survived to the Koper town, he said he will free us as well as give us some money. I couldn't believe it at first. Other people would usually monopolize the property of the slave dealer after selling us.

The other slave who that survived with me, Golum-san of the lizard tribe greatly expressed his gratitude after Master give him freedom. Although Master said he would free me too, I don't want to leave Master's side.

There's also the favor that he saved my life. Not to mention it's hard to face my family who sold me. I also don't have any confidence to live alone. Anyways there are many reasons for that. However, the most important reason is that I wanted to further devote myself to this gentle person.

Once again I contracted as Master slave, and I also registered as adventurers with Master. Master bought one of the most expensive equipment for me. I worry myself as his slave as I've never heard of anything like this.

That night, when I was trying to do the only thing I can do to Master who's a man as a way to repay his kindness, he just pat my head gently while saying such a thing is unnecessary. Looking at the trembling me, he might have known that I was scared. I was really touched, as I swore in my heart to follow this person forever.

On the way to gather the medicinal herbs for our first quest, we met with Amyl-san and Lelena-san.

Amyl-san was always in full vigor, lightening the atmosphere of the party. Lelena-san had the quite adult-like feeling to her, sometimes stopping Amyl-san before he does something stupid.

After handling our first quest, due to some event we need to go into the dungeon. It all starts when the application for silver-rank quest that Amyl-san took, it seems like a dissatisfaction had raised from another party of three.

They said some sarcastic things, treating us like idiot, a truly troublesome people. But Master was angry at that time. We wanted to do this quest for the high payment. Although it should have naturally led to a fight, Master handled in with a cool head. If we became stronger there won't be any problem after all.

Master has a mysterious skill called [Experience Value Up]. although I don't really understand how, this skill seems to give us multiple times the normal experience value given. We only dive into the dungeon for a bit, but it's already possible for the me who didn't know how to fight to be able to reach Level 20 and becomes a Silver-rank adventurer.

Although we had handled the quest when we exit the dungeon, those three people that we have a quarrel with suddenly attacked. At first I thought that we're done for when that fire ball magic came flying at us, but Master obstruct it like it was nothing.

It became a fight against that three person group. Although at first I don't have any confidence that we could win, we seemed to have become way stronger than we expected. I have that much confidence now that we're able to defeat Silver-class adventurer.

Master seems to have already expects this situation, and had already prepared some countermeasures. Masked people who's likely the people of the Merchant guild suddenly appeared, as it seems that he will testify that we were attacked. In addition, he will also handles the survived female magician that we caught.

There are a lot of points leading me to think of this, but I think Master is really great.

Really, who on earth is Master? He's skillful in both sword and magic, as well as having skills that I've never heard of. He's like the hero who only appears in fairy tale. No matter who master is, I will serve him for as long as I live, I once again swore that in my heart.

Chapter 26: Urgent Quest

When we returned to town, we go straight to the guild to report about the success of the quest, as well as handling the purchase of the materials, which is the ogre's horns and monster cores. It seems like since they look humanoid, I heard that their meat is not normally bought. I think I've heard that some people in Japan even eat monkeys.

The total number of ogres subjugated are 15. The horns collected from the normal ogres amount to 12, while from the Yellow and Red Ogre totaled to 6. It seems that the number of horns increased for the high rank. The total amount sold for the horns are 18 small silver coins.

Since the reward for completing the quest are 2 gold coins, our total profits are 2 gold and 1 silver coins, as well as 8 small silver coins. When we go to the bulletin board to look at what quest we should do next, the guild suddenly becomes noisy.

When an adventurer-looking man came with a fast horse rushed to the counter and speaks with the receptionist, the receptionist heads inside with a startled expression.

"I wonder if something happened?"

"I have no idea"

The other adventurers seem to be anxious too. While we were thinking about that strange thing, an old dignified person appeared from the interior, and begin to announce something:

“An urgent quest has been created. I want all the adventurers in this place, as well as all of their party members to participate. The rank doesn’t matter!”

Urgent quest. This is a first for me. I recalled the pamphlet called 『Guild’s Rule~』 when I first joined the guild. According to it, when abnormal situations happened around the guild (monster flood, bandit attack etc), the guild can order the adventurer related to the guild to participate.

Although I can decline the quest, it’s possible that the materials purchased by the guild will have reduced price after this, and worst case being expelled from the guild. Basically excluding the rich people and the noble being adventurers as a hobby, you can say that it’s impossible for you to decline.

“The content of the quest?”

A certain adventurer raised his voice.

“There’s a report saying that a group of monsters is on the highway north of here heading towards the capital city! Although the Guard corps had already left this city, I want all of you to hurry and follow!”

The information about that group of monsters is too vague. We don’t know the numbers nor the type, so won’t this leads to a confusing fight? The staff begins to put the urgent request on the bulletin board, as well as distributing it to the adventurers. Although there’s no great difference between what’s written here and the one mentioned before, I was drawn towards the reward. The person who participates and managed to return alive will be given 1 gold plate.

[T.N: Not sure, the raw said “一律金貨1枚”, something like a gold plate but I’m not sure. It should be equivalent to 10 gold coins I think.]

“What should we do?”

When I ask everyone, it seems like we have already decided on the answer.

“Let’s go! The reward is pretty attractive.”

“It’s impossible to refuse anyway. Then the only thing left to do is survive while giving priority to avoiding dangerous position.”

“If Master decides to participate, then naturally I will follow.”

It seems like it has already been decided. We then head hurried back to the hotel to put on traveling outfit, and then meet in front of the gate facing the north highway. It seems that other adventurers had already gathered too, as there are quite a lot of people. Seems to be around 30 people? If we join the Guard corps that had already moved in advance, it seems to almost reach 100.

“Depart!”

The old man from before gives out the order. Apparently that old man seems to be the Guild Master. When I look at his equipment, it seems that this old man can fight too. When I look at the surrounding adventurer, there’s only one adventurer that looks like a gold-rank, while including us there about 10 people with Silver-rank, and the rest are all consist of Bronze-class adventurers.

We head north at a fast pace. The low-leveled adventurers are already out of breath at the front. I guess it can’t be helped as they’ve never had any march training while carrying weapon and armor.

After a while, the Guard corps that are fighting against the group of monsters had finally came into view. Looking from the long distance, it seems like the odds are against us. Isn't there like twice the number of monsters!?

“Charge!”

The old man pulls out his weapon and runs ahead. Oi oi, is there no strategy at all? It seems that the surrounding adventurers had also readied their weapons and follow the old man.

“I guess there's no choice but to do it too.”

We followed behind while sighing. The majority of the monsters are goblins and kobolds, but there are also many kinds that could put up a good fight like the orcs and harpies, ogres and large scorpions, as well as tough monsters like Living Armor that can only be handled by people above Silver-rank.

As we enter the attacking range, the adventurers that are able to use magic had started to chant. Fire and ice starts flying. The adventurers that use bows had also start shooting their arrows towards the harpies. We also begin to join on the attacks. When I continuously shoot explosion magic towards the enemy group that is far away from our allies, explosion sounds could be heard, as monster's torn body parts start flying everywhere. Even with low-leveled enemies, since there are a lot of them, I think I'll be able to level up quickly.

Claire takes the arrow out of the quiver which she brought more than usual, and fire the arrows one by one towards the enemy in the sky.

The guards had gathered the injured person to the back, and Lelena had focused on long range healing magic. That sure is useful at this situation. Amyl had been removing any monsters that tried to approach the injured person.

The battle situations starts getting better 5 minutes after the adventurers provide their support. The moment we thought that we would be able to win like this, something huge danced in the sky and that huge mass drops down bringing the guards down with it on impact.

“It’s a Wyvern!”

When I look at the sky, a huge pterosaurs-like monster that is 10 meters wide from tip to tip of its wings flew in the sky. Although it looks more like a bird instead of a dragon, it should be treated like a lesser dragon. There’s no change in the fact that it’s a powerful enemy.

Geez, for such a monster to appear in this confusing fight, I wonder will we be able to return safely?

Chapter 27: Goemon(Temporary)

For the time being let's leave the other monsters to the surrounding people, and focus the magics to the wyverns. Since it doesn't have a breath attack like a dragon, there's a chance to attack when it descends.

We took aim towards the wyverns circling in the sky. The arrows won't reach no matter how many flies from the ground. It will surely dives. I wait for the chance to attack while it gradually descends. At that time, the wyvern suddenly dive aiming for the injured people being treated at the rear.

Fire type magic won't be that effective because it's a dragon type. And because my ice magic is still at level 1, I can't expect much from it. But I still have that explosion magic. Since it's difficult to hit it directly, trying to find a way, I imagined the scene of the World War 2 that I've seen before and hardened the image.

The Wyvern finally entered the range of my explosion magic. Did it think it won't have that large effect, as it only stops and evade at the very last minute. However that is what I was aiming for. The moment it dodges, an explosion occurred at close range.

Having strengthened my image, I keep on using explosion magic at a constant distance towards the approaching Wyvern. In short, I was trying to create a VT

fuse like the one in World War 2 by using magic. The Wyvern that got hit by the blast starts spinning and falls. One adventurer is already waiting at the predicted falling area.

[T.N: VT Fuse(Proximity Fuse) is a type of bomb that instead of exploding upon contact, will instead explode when it reach a certain distance from the target, causing it to be harder to evade.]

The Gold-rank old man from before, while his sword is still in his sheath slashed towards the falling Wyvern. So fast! After cutting its neck in two while in a state of passing each other with an unsheathed sword, he said this while slowly sheathing his sword:

“Once again I have cut a worthless object...”

Are you Ishikawa Goemon!? I almost shouted that retort. The first thing you say was that, aren't you just bad at talking!? Is such a thing okay!? My impression of the old man's awesome sword technique was blown away by that one word!

[T.N: Ishikawa Goemon is some kind of semi-legendary Japanese outlaw hero that steals for the poor. But in this case he's referring to the samurai character in Lupin III, where that phrase is one of his famous words. As I can't remember when was the last time I watch that anime, I can't really make sense of his retort, so this is my best guess.]

“The adventurer over there! Please drop the remaining wyverns in the same

way! I'll cut them!"

The old man look at me and ask that.... Well it's fine. Lets finish this with just me and that old man Goemon(Temporary).

With the combined attacks from the Koper armies as well as the adventurers, the crowd of monsters scattered and starts retreating. The people who can still move have already started chasing. There probably won't be any ambush from the monsters either.

"It ended somehow."

"Yeah. What's more, I'm glad we did not suffer any injuries."

Amyl had approached me. However, what would we do about the collection of the monster core? When we're thinking that there might be some complaints if we gather it without permission, the head of the guild shouted an order at the time of departure:

"The monster core that can be collected, you can take them home. However, the monster core of the wyverns will be claimed by the guild. Since we'll confirm it with the person who's participating in the pursuit after this, the adventurers in this place must gather first for the time being."

Did the guild get the best part? While I was thinking about what to gather, we

first need to confirm our names and ranks on the list. We also take out the plate and tell our names in turns.

“Ah, it’s you. Great work a little while ago.”

The guild officials give me their compliments. It should be about me dropping the wyverns. Since I thought that all the credits will go to Goemon(temporary), I do feel a little bit unsatisfied. While we we’re collecting the monster cores after ending the procedure, we talked about the incident this time.

“But still, why do they suddenly attack in a group? Does this kind of thing happens regularly with monsters?”

“I wonder why? I think this is a first for me too”

It was Goemon(temporary) that answers our doubt while not stopping collecting the monster cores.

“The demons might be related to this. Those guys had a country composed of only demons, and always try to sabotage us.”

Demons huh? I’ve also heard about this when I was transferred here, I haven’t really seen them. Do their appearances looks like the devil as expected?

“How the demon tribe looks? It varies. They had horns and wings, but as for their main feature, the face of the high ranking demon will look more dignified. There’s no one who was able to see the face of the Demon Lord that appeared a long time ago in the record.”

However, we still don’t know the reason why the demon tribe attack everyone besides themselves. By sending the monsters to other countries creating a political unrest, will they be able to gain something from that?

“It’s to prevent us from uniting our nations into one. A stable country may appear if the demon tribe does not meddle, but revenge is also one of the reasons. A long time ago, although it’s questionable whether the hero managed to defeat the demon lord or not, but the demon tribe had been living the life of persecution after that. I guess revenge is not all that odd.”

Is there a history of war between the races? I really don’t want to be involved as much as possible. For me, I’m happy as long as me and people close to me are happy, as well as doesn’t have to accept any troublesome things.

“Still, you look promising even when you’re young. How about it? Wanna come to the capital city and train yourself? You might even be able to serve the country depending on how hard you work.”

“Capital city huh? What are the specific training that I can do there?”

According to Goemon(temporary), there's also a dungeon exist at the outskirts of the capital city. The scale seems to be bigger than the one in Koper town. Strong monsters lurk in the dungeon, so it's not rare that many adventurers who managed to defeat them be appointed as knights or soldiers

If you are tired from the adventurers unstable life, it seems that there are tired adventurers who use this method to achieve stability. The quest for the Adventurer Guild in the capital city offered bigger rewards, as well as having a chance of being noticed by the big shots. There are many adventurers that goes there for the big rewards.... But on the other hand the risk is bigger too.

Capital city huh? There's a feeling of wanting to see it at least once. I have no particular reason to stay in the Koper town either. Should I have a talk with everyone after we return to town? But for now let view the level up:

Est: Level 26

HP 410/410

MP 308/308

Strength 198

Speed 202

Dexterity 201

Defense 195

Wisdom 211

Luck 111

Skill Possessed:

『Experience Value Up : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

『Dexterity Up : Level 1』

『Mapping : Level 1』

『Wisdom Up : Level 2』

『Fire Magic : Level 2』

『No Chant : Level 1』

『Speed Up : Level 1』

『Stealth : Level 1』

『Strength Up : Level 1』

『Defense Up : Level 1』

『Shield : Level 2』

『Ice Magic : Level 1』

『Healing Magic : Level 1』

『HP Regeneration : Level 1』

[T.N: Cant find the HP Up in the raws, but since the HP regen is there so maybe the author just forgot]

『A new skill can be obtained. Please choose from the list:』

『MP Up』

『Luck Up』

『Ice Magic : Level 2』

『Dexterity Up : Level 2』

『Strength up : Level 2』

『Speed Up : Level 2』

『No Chant : Level 2』

Claire : Level 25

HP 360/360

MP 106/106

Strength 124

Speed 205

Dexterity 204

Defense 107

Wisdom 98

Luck 155

Skills Possessed:

『Archery : Level 3』

『Evasion : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 2』

Amyl went from level 22 to 25. Lelena went from 21 to 24 respectively. Since this is such a large scale battle, everyone manage to greatly improved.

Claire's Archery and Swordsmanship had went up after we came here. It

might be due to defeating lots of enemies in this confusing fight. If we keep on raising our level, it's likely that she will overtake me later. To keep the dignity as her Master, should I do some special training in secret?

What kind of skill should I take this time? When I used the 『HP Regeneration : Level 1』, it was a considerably good skill. I might have been defeated by that handsome man if not for that skill. Should the recovery system also be the same for the MP-related thing? With that, I acquired the 『MP Up』 skill.

『As [MP Up : Level 1] was obtained, you acquired the derivative skill [MP Regeneration : Level 1]』

Alright, just as expected. My combat capabilities will be very different with this.

Chapter 28: Capital City

The rewards for the urgent quest as well as selling the monster cores, each of us managed to get 1 and a half gold plate(15 gold coins). I tried to consult with everyone about going to the capital city that Goemon(temporary) told me about.

“If there’s a chance to enter the government service, then I want to go. This place is only good for a Bronze-rank after all. If I could become stronger and got appointed as a knight in the capital city, I’ll have a secured future.”

That’s right huh. Amyl need to have a secured job first to marry Lelena. He’s working as adventurers while saving money, but I guess it’s normal to choose a job with stable income like a soldier or knight.

Lelena also seems to agree, as Amyl will surely choose to go to the Capital City. Since Claire will always follow me, all that’s left is for me to decide.

To be frank, even if it was called the capital city it only gives me the impression of a tourist attraction spot, so I don’t feel all that attracted to it. Even if you said it’s the capital city of the country in this world, it might be even below one of the local city in Japan. If I really need to find a reason to go there, I guess it’s that I could get stronger there? Well, since I don’t really want to separate with Amyl after all we’ve been through together, let’s say that we’ll go there together until he’s managed to build a stable life?

“Understood. Then let’s all go there together. Claire is fine with that right?”

Claire nodded with a smile when I asked. Then should we depart to the capital city tomorrow? That reminds me, what's the name of this country? I've never heard of it. When I spoke that question, why is all of them looking at me like that. They all have a dubious expressions.

"...Are you seriously asking that? Here is the Garcia Kingdom, and the name of the Capital City is Garcia. Garcia is also the name inherited by the royal family from generation to generation. I really have no idea what wrong with you sometimes."

What a blunder. Amyl had treated me like a fool. Well, I do lacks a little bit of common sense but still. I'll look for a map once I arrived at the capital city, so should I at least learn the minimum about the geography here?

Next morning, we boarded the stagecoach to the capital city, leaving Koper town. Although I only stayed here for a while, I did a lot of things in this town. My guild registration as well as my first quest, as well as my first quarrel against other adventurers. Lets come here again if I had a chance. Fortunately it's not that far from the capital city. I think it's about one week with a carriage?

The stagecoach we ride on is not only consist of only one carriage, as normally it consist of two or three. To deal with surprise attacks from monsters or bandits on the journey, there are guards acting as escorts on each carriage.if the number of carriage increased, so is the number of guards. But increasing the number of things to protect will be tough.

When adventurers like us gets on the stagecoach, there's a discount according to rank. That's because we're able to fight if we got attacked by the enemy by chance. The basic fee is 5 silver coins. It becomes 4 silver coins for Bronze-rank, 3 piece for Silver. Gold only need to pay 1 silver coin. Although I haven't seen one yet, but it seems like Adamantite can ride it for free.

Everything went well towards the capital city. Since it's natural that it will be safer the closer we get to the capital city, the rate of monsters and bandit attacks had greatly fallen. I got bored with nothing to do. The scenery is basically the same, and my butt hurts since the carriage keeps on shaking.

It can be said that the scale of the capital city is way bigger when compared to Koper town. A lot of people come and go, as well as merchants moving about busily. There's children taking fees while guiding travelers to the inn, as well as adults raising their voices in the stalls to promote their items. There's not only human race here, as there's also beastmen and elves as well. There's also many humans that seems to be slaves who's walking behind a human that looks like their master, carrying large luggage.

There's a sense like having come to a developing countries on Earth. Even if it doesn't give me any particular impression, that seems to not be the case for Amyl. Did he gets overwhelmed by this many people, as he only looks dumbfounded.

"...It sure is awesome, the capital city."

"You said it. It's my first time seeing this many people."

"I-is it alright for me to be in a place like this?"

Amyl acts like how a country bumpkin would, as for Claire, she was sold by her family because they are poor. It's no wonder that they got stiff.

"For the time being, let's choose an inn that will be our base."

All the member start walking again after I urged them to. I guess as expected

of the products forming a line on the streets of the capital city, the number and type are way more abundant when compared to Koper town. At this rate, I could expect some rice.

“Is onii-san an adventurer? If you still hasn’t decided on an inn, you should come to our inn. The meal is delicious and the bed is soft. It’s a popular inn among adventurers.”

A child who seems to be a barker for an inn called out to us. Since I’m not sure there will be any rooms for other popular inns, let’s stop searching thoughtlessly. I asked the child to lead the way since there might be no hope elsewhere, a splendid three-story building came into view. The atmosphere is not bad as it gives the feeling of a big log cabin.

After getting the reward from the master of the inn, the child went back to where he came from. This might be their source of income.

“Welcome. Right now only the rooms for two are available. Are two rooms good?”

There’s proper rooms for two people. Just like the inn at Koper, this one charge for the number of rooms and not the number of people. When I asked for how much they charge, it seems to be 1 silver coin for a double bed room. Its considerably higher than the one in Koper, but the current us should have no problem with that amount of money.

As we have decided on the inn, shall we go to the Adventurer Guild to see if there’s any way to enter the government service?

Chapter 29: Hello Work

They have the guild here in capital city as expected, and its several times bigger than the one in Koper town. Does it have a lot of counter like bank? Since it has a bit of a bad design, it gives an atmosphere of a License Renewal Center than a bank.

There's more than one notice board. As it was sorted by ranks, there won't be any trouble like taking a wrong one by mistake.

When I roughly observe the guild, I found a counter that I've seen for a first time. 『Employment Consultation』 was written on it. Some kind of ad was also written on the nearby newspaper.

*

For adventurers who wants to find a job, you can have a guidance from the guild.

Adventurers hoping to find a stable life should seek some consultation in this guild.

Adventurers that are good at combat had many opportunities to play active role in battles in various district. The job varies from guarding important person,

guarding commercial facilities and so on.

In case that you managed to enter the government service as the royal knight, you can notify the guild.

To get the job that suits you, the guild will always lend a helping hand.

For more info, please refer to our counter number 7, the 『Employment Consultation』 counter.

※ Consultation is free of charge.

*

...somehow it sounds like Hello Work.

“Lets try it. Amyl, why don’t you go?”

“Th-thats right. Then I’ll try to consult them.”

Presenting the name and current rank at the reception desk, Amyl fills an application form with simple background details, filling it while scratching his head.

“I’m not good at things like this.”

Amyl receives a ticket number from a staff distributing the ticket, he then proceeds to sit idly on a chair. His turn finally come after a while.

“The person with the ticker number 164!, please come to counter 7~”

Some kind of calling that drags on came, and Amyl that confirms his ticket number stands up in a panic. Waiting at the counter is a lazy old man that really gives the atmospheres of a public servant. Somehow I recalled the unpleasant thing in my previous life. It's the type that even if there's still one minutes left of work, he will definitely stopped working. Its that kind of person.

"Erm, Amyl-san. You wished to be a knight... and you're 18 but already a Silver Rank. Heh~ it's great that you're already a Silver Rank while still young."

"Y-yes."

He seems a little bit glad to be praised. But don't let your guard down. This is because public servant will drop to the main thing after raising your hope.

"Can Amyl-san do anything else aside from fighting? For example, quick calculation or training animals?"

"No...that, nothing...in particular."

"Ah~ then being a knight is a bit hard. Although there are cases of commoners with great fighting power turning into one, if you're a Silver Rank with no special skill, it's a bit hard you know~."

"I...see."

Amyl had teary eyes. I wonder why, when I look at him I felt pain in my stomach. Do your best Amyl!

“If you want to be a knight with just your fighting ability, you need to at least be a Gold Rank you see~. That and also successfully defeating a strong monster. Since Amyl-san is young with a lot of potential, you might be able to enter government service one day~.”

“Is that true!?”

It seems that he'll manage somehow if he reached the Gold rank. Since Goemon(temporary) is the only person I know that is a Gold rank, I guess the minimum requirement is to be at level 35 at the lowest. You're 10 levels below the requirement. Well, it's not impossible. Amyl who had just finished the consultation had become motivated. He came over to me enthusiastically.

“Est! Let's dive into the dungeon right now! Come on!”

“Well, settle down first. The dungeon won't run away.”

Once he settles down, we left the guild and entered a nearby shop for a light meal. The purpose is to discuss about the thing we will do in the future while having a meal. To the onee-chan who came to have our order, I ask for 4 of today's special while paying in advance. The food arrives after a while, it seems to be a puffy white bread and boiled sausage, and also a salty soup.

“For the time being we should be Gold rank first, so we need to raise at least 10 of our levels. He also said something about defeating a strong monster, so we need to do some outstanding job. You will be made fun of as a commoner if

you don't raise your prestige."

I keeps talking while having a meal. There's too many salt in this dish. My blood pressure will definitely go up...

"With that, I have a proposal."

I happened to hear something while Amyl was consulting a little while ago, it seems that for the dungeon in the capital city, a boss monster will regularly appears as the floor master for each few levels. As it seems to be a considerably strong monster, Amyl will definitely gets high prestige if a young adventurers like him defeats it. I heard the fellow adventurers talking about that while returning home. Since it revives back at a fixed timed after it was defeated, there seems to be no end to the person who challenged it.

"It might be a challenge for you who's still at Silver rank. You might even get wiped out if its too strong. But still, the reward will be huge if you defeat it. How about it, wanna try?"

Amyl and Lelena both look at each other, then both of them bows their heads.

“I beg you. I want you to cooperate with us. As Est is not directly related to this, not to mention there won’t be a reward since it’s not a quest from the guild either. However, I think it will be impossible with just the two of us. I’ll try to pay you as much as possible if everything goes well. Therefore I need you to lend a hand.”

“Since I also think it will be difficult with just two people, I also ask this from you. Please lend us your help.”

Since I never thought that they would lower their head so seriously like that, to be frank I was bewildered. When I glance at Claire, she nods a little with a smile. The thing that we’re going to do had been decided from the very beginning huh, Claire?

“Please raise your head, you two. Why are you being so polite right now? We’re planning to help from the very beginning.”

The expressions of the two people brightens at that moment. As a substitute for you wedding present, shall we work hard for a bit?

Chapter 30: Capital City's Dungeon

The entrance of the dungeon is in the outskirts of the capital city, with better facilities than the one at Koper. Although it's just have simple beds, several inns had been established, so it seems that a lot of adventurers staying overnight here. With this it seems natural for merchants to gather trying to earn some profits. One of the merchants advertise his products in a loud voice, as it seems like he was selling an interesting tool.

"This is a new lantern. The consumption of the monster cores are less than the normal lantern, not to mention the light produced is far brighter . You won't be disappointed if you buy this."

Is it like the difference between fluorescent bulb and LED? Its 3 silver coins when I asked the price. Since the lantern we're using right now is 1 silver coin, it's only a little bit expensive. However, lets buy it for now since it looks interesting.

The procedure is the same like the dungeon in Koper, where you give your name and rank, as well as whether the rescue unit is necessary afterwards. Since we have no intention of returning until we achieve our goal, I won't decide on the time limit. Of course the search unit is unnecessary too.

All of us hide our intentions of defeating the floor master, and when we

descend into the dungeon's 1st floor, it's jammed full of people.

"What the heck is this..."

Anyway, there's too many people. There's adventurers and baggage carriers of various levels. There's also group of soldiers that seems to be the search unit. This situation is too hectic even for inside a town. Even if you discover a monster, it will just get scrambled by the adventurers. Even if we defeat it, there's going to be a lot of troublesome thing to settle. It really looks like some kind of Online Game.

"There's too many adventurers, it's going to be troublesome to raise our levels with our low reputation."

Lelena complained while looking amazed. In this kind of situation, its useless unless we go down on the lower floor right? We head towards the lower floor with tired feelings. When we finally thought that the people had decreased, we already arrived at the 10th underground floor.

"It finally looks like a dungeon. Is it alright to suddenly start from the 10th floor? There seems to be considerably stronger monsters here."

Although we cannot be sure since we haven't found any enemies yet, the surroundings feels a bit better with the new lantern. As expected people will get stressed easily while being surrounded by darkness. Since there's no safety zone, we decided to rest for a bit at a slightly large passage.

Half a day had passed. We haven't encountered any monsters, this is likely due to the road are maintained as there are a lot of adventurers. We should still be able to survive with our food.

We also met a couple of parties while we're taking a rest. There's several huge bad looking men, a brown girl with silver hair that have a slave crest, totaling 5 people, including a Beastman little girl that looks like a 6 years old. While I observe thinking that it's the usual combination, the huge man glared at me. What's wrong with this guy? You wanna fight?

He clicked his tongue with a "tch" and left after I glared back. As I've confirmed that all of their members haven't reached Level 20 yet, they might have thought it's going to be bad having to go against us.

"Have you seen that guy just now?"

"Yeah. I've once gone with them on a party. You've seen that slave right? He used the slave bought with money as a shield and use them till the end of their lives."

According to Amyl's explanation, there's that kind of circumstances.

They first buy a slave that can fight for them. However, the slave with high fighting power had high pride and possess great mental strength. There's a chance that they won't obey the orders. Although I heard that the slave that go against their master's orders will receive various type of pain on their whole body from the slave crest, the slave with strong willpower might be able to overcome it.

Therefore one of the effective method to control the slave is by using a hostage. They'll kill the hostage if the slave refuse to obey. Thus they're ordered to fight even if they hate it.

"The party from a while ago, the hostage seems to be the beastman little girl. The dark elf seems to unwillingly had to fight for her."

Dark Elf!? That girl from a while ago is a dark elf?

"You didn't noticed? She even had such an outstanding ears."

I messed up! The elves that I saw before are just the normal elves and not a dark elf. What a lifetime blunder to overlook such a thing! If I have a chance to meet her again I'm going to give her a hard look. However, that guy is pretty bad to held someone hostage and ask her to fight.

Since the break is over, let's restart our search. For the time being I decided to head in the direction that the party from a while ago headed. According to the map they've advanced pretty far, if you take the distance in a straight line they're around 500 meters ahead of us? But the situation suddenly becomes weird. When the red dots indicating enemies appeared, the blue one runs towards us in a confused manner. There's likely a fight.

Only two of the blue dots remained there, while the rest seems to have come running towards us. When I see a shadow of a person gradually approaching us, I only saw the huge men from before running in a panic. I don't see neither the Dark Elf nor the Beastman little girl.

"Move away! You're in the way!"

I shove one of my feet towards the men who's going to pass us while shouting.

"Dowaaa!?"

The men got piled on top of one another while raising exaggerated screams. While stamping on the back of those guys, I decided to ask them questions.

"Oi you people. What did you do with those girls who're with you?"

“Huh!? It got nothing to do with you right!? Since they’re just slaves I decided to make them as shield! I can just get a new one when I get back to town! If you understand that then stop blocking my way!”

I see, they’re garbage as expected. It’s useless to hesitate with these kind of people.

“These people really- ”

Amyl was about to get enraged, but I’m the one that acted first. I turned in front of them after jumping from their backs, kicking their faces one by one while they’re still struggling. They lose consciousness at once. Since I kicked pretty seriously, there should be a considerable damage. Not like it matters since they’re garbage anyway. That’s what you get for leaving children behind.

“Let’s go everyone!”

They nod, and thus we began to run towards the place with the reaction from a while ago.

Chapter 31: Dark Elf

When we rushed to that place, that dark elf lady was brandishing her dagger while protecting the beastman little girl behind her. Her injury seems pretty serious, making her unable to run away.

The monsters that attacked them are mantis as tall as a person, as well as beetles the size of a cow.

Killer Mantis : Level 23

Iron Beetle : Level 24

Quite the powerful enemies if I had to say. Amyl proceeds to stab the beetle. The mantis recognize the new reinforcements that arrived, it stopped its attack on the girls and swung down its huge sickle towards Amyl instead. Clanging sounds was heard the moment it clashed with the sword, and it tried to used its other sickle towards him. However Lelena throws her morning star to repel the sickle, breaking the mantis's posture. An arrow from Claire then fly right between its eyes.

Although the mantis that was deprived from its vision starts rampaging while blindly swinging its sickles, Amyl's sword managed to slip through and beheaded the mantis.

The beetle faced me as it recognize me as the enemy, and pushed the ground with its 6 feet rushing here intensely. Although it managed to cut me while I'm dodging, it's just shallow wounds(T.N: tis but a scratch). As it's a beetle made of iron, among the enemies that I fought before that has high defense, this guy's defense is twice over it.

I aim for the gap in the joint at the foot, neck and body. The body is big, but it should not be all that different from the normal beetle. The beetle that had been pushed to the limit charged again, this time with enough power to crush the wall of the dungeon with its horn.

I jump on its back in a hurry, and stabbed the struggling beetle deeply in the neck. I don't know whether it didn't scream or it didn't have an organ for voice, but the beetle began to acts violently. I grab hold of my sword so as not to be shaken off, strengthening my image.

“Eat this!”

Flame gushed out from the tip of my sword at the same time as I shout. The flame overflowed from the gap in the beetle as its whole body engulfed in flame. I'm doing the same thing that I did to the baby dragon. Enemy with hard skin can be destroyed from the inside. Although I did it without any practice, the magic came out well which saved me.

When I confirmed that the enemy no longer move, I faced towards the girl.

“You okay?”

“...you’re doing something unnecessary. I didn’t ask for you help.”

Eh? Although I don’t expect her to come jumping at me while being impressed, this is a completely unexpected reaction. Are you being cautious of us? The beastman little girl is also hiding behind the dark elf’s back. Although she sometimes took a peek at us, she immediately hides back when our eyes match.

“Well, calm down for the time being. We did not help you with bad intentions. First of all let’s treat those wounds. Does that small kid hungry? Onii-chan here has some delicious thing.”

[T.N: Yeah, that last line is NOT criminal-like at all...]

Although it’s a line that would usually get me reported in Japan, I don’t have any guilty feelings. I won’t get executed here even if I think of wanting to hold the little girl in my arm and pet her. Since she judged that we’re not hostile, the dark elf unwillingly accepted the treatment.

[T.N: Welcome to the dark side, MC]

While the dark elf got healed by Lena, I decided to take out some portable

food from the bag and give it to the little girl. Although she looks puzzled at first, she carried it to her mouth when the dark elf nods, and gradually starts eating hungrily. Those huge men doesn't seem to give them proper meal.

“Since there's a lot of food, you don't have to rush and eat slowly.”

I give the water bag to the little who's squeezing her throat and rolling her eyes in bewilderment. Once she get full, the little girl laughs with a smile, and bow to me.”

“Th-thank you, onii-chan”

...Ah!? My mind seems to have momentarily flown somewhere. What an extremely lovely child! Moreover, with that ear she looks like the Japanese Shiba Inu. Is she the beastman of the dog tribe? I remember the dog that I kept before. That guy also had this ovely charm.

[T.N: Shiba Inu is basically the breed of what you call that doge. Much wow, such lovely, very charm.]

When I heard the circumstances from the dark elf, it seems to be roughly the same as what Amyl said.

Although the dark elf used to work as a soldier, the nation that she served for got defeated in the war and she got dropped into slavery. When she was brought to the capital city as a commodity, she met the beastman little girl, who without any relatives was shaking miserably. It seems that she had grown fond of that little girl while taking care of her.

Although those huge men bought the dark elf as a shield, they became irritated as she does not obey orders and was going to return her to the slave dealer. However, instead the slave dealer gives them the little girl who got no buyer to use her as a hostage to make the dark elf follow orders. She's okay if she herself got tortured, but since she can't bear to see the little girl that she had taken care of all this time got harmed, thus the reason she had reluctantly agreed to fight.

"As soon as they found out that my magic doesn't work, they quickly run away. They're only admirable at their speed of running away."

The dark elf said that with sarcasm after having finished with her treatment and meal. Its no wonder that she would get angry. Even me who only heard that story feel angry. Still, she can use magic? No wonder she could hold on against those monsters.

"So what will you do from now on? Wanna come with us if you have nowhere to go? After we achieved our purpose it's even possible for you to be freed from slavery."

"Don't say that so easily. To begin with the ownership of us still remains with those men. It's impossible to follow you."

“If that is the case you don’t have to worry about that.”

Actually I already seen the situation of those men that I had kicked on the map. Awhile after we head here to help, those guys had woke up and began to move slowly. However, there’s reactions of new monsters appearing nearby, and then the reaction from those men disappear. Its likely that they’ve got done in. Originally the monsters in this place has higher level than those men, not to mention after receiving a kick from me, there’s no way they’re going to be okay. Guilty feeling? There’s none. It’s only natural for those trash who uses children as a shield to receive that kind of punishment.

When I told them this, after think about it a little, the dark elf decided to join us.

“I already owe you my life after saving us. Not to mention that I don’t have the confidence to protect this child if it’s just me. Therefore, please allow me to accompany you.”

“Yeah. Welcome aboard. My name is Est. From this side is Claire, Amyl, and Lelena.”

“My name is Diabell. As you can see, I’m a dark elf. This child is Shallie, a beastman of the dog tribe.”

[T.N: the raw said “シャリー”(Sharii). Hit me with better one if you got any.]

As our number of companions increased, I guess the tension will rise a little?

Chapter 32: Diabell and Shallie

After defeating the mantis, we level up.

Est: Level 27

HP 435/435

MP 331/331

Strength 215

Speed 222

Dexterity 219

Defense 208

Wisdom 239

Luck 121

Skills Possessed:

『Experience Value Up: Level 2』

『Swordsmanship: Level 3』

『Dexterity Up: Level 1』

『Mapping: Level 1』

『Wisdom Up: Level 2』

『Fire Magic: Level 2』

『No Chant: Level 1』

『Speed Up: Level 1』

『Stealth: Level 1』

『Strength Up : Level 1』

『Defense Up : Level 1』

『Shield : Level 2』

『Ice Magic : Level 1』

『Healing Magic : Level 1』

『HP Regeneration : Level 1』

『MP Regeneration : Level 1』

『A new skill can be acquired. Please choose from the list below:』

『Luck Up』

『Ice Magic : Level 2』

『Dexterity Up : Level 2』

『Strength Up : Level 2』

『Speed Up : Level 2』

『No Chant : Level 2』

『Earth Magic : Level 1』

Claire : Level 26

HP 375/375

MP 112/112

Strength 136

Speed 231

Dexterity 228

Defense 113

Wisdom 102

Luck 175

Skills Possessed:

『Archery : Level 3』

『Evasion : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 2』

『Rapid Shot : Level 1』

Amyl went up from Level 25 to 26. Lelena went up from 24 to 25 respectively.

What should I take for the next skill? Since a new magic system came out, I decided to take the Earth magic. Claire gains a new bow related skill. From the name is a skill that shoots arrows rapidly. That should be useful when facing more than one enemies.

Next I decided to immediately test the Earth magic that I just got. At first, I got a bit impatient as it's been awhile since I get to choose a new magic but it doesn't really works. I'll try to use it again after changing the location, as there is some limitation with what I can do if it's not a place with exposed soil.

The magic is the same as the others, with similar pattern. First is the magic that raise a wall of earth at a place. Next is a magic that change the ground into a marsh. The third is a magic that digs up the ground. It's also possible to change the strength of the earth wall, to make it stronger than normal wood, but weaker than iron.

Diabell who decided to join us is a Spirit magic user. Spirit magic is not a magic that is used for direct attack, but a magic that borrows the power of the spirits drifting all over the world to interfere with the surroundings.

For example, spirit magic user can call the spirit of light called the Will o' Wisp to float as a light instead of the lantern in the dungeon, and if outside they can call the spirit of the wind to cut the enemies in pieces, or borrowing the power of the spirit of flame to make a fire, as well as creating various other phenomena.

However there's limitation to borrowing the power of the spirits, as you can't borrow the power of the water spirit in a place without water, as well as unable to borrow the power of the flame spirit in a place without fire. Therefore in a dungeon, its power is considerably limited.

[T.N: But there's spirit of light in those dark dungeons?]

"I could also use sword. Can you find any use for an elf like me?"

So the person in question asked. Since we're going to fight strong monsters, I won't lie. Diabell is Level 19. She's slightly lower than us. As for Shallie, she's Level 1. Well, there won't be many chances for the little girl having to fight.

In case of Shallie, she seems to be glad that the number of adults have increased, as she frequently talks with Claire and Lelena. Did Lelena loves children I wonder, as she keeps on telling her stories while Shallie keeps on nodding. Amyl also seems to make an effort to tame her by using food. When I see her walking with Claire while holding hands, they look like sisters in good relationship.

"So, what do you plan to do? Since I decided to join I need to know."

That's reasonable so we explained our circumstances. The thing about Amyl getting married. How he hoped for a stable life as an officer. How to be a knight he needs to reach Gold rank, as well as defeating the floor master to raise his

fame. Although Diabell listens to the story with a severe look, she didn't oppose it.

"To be honest the probability of us winning is low with our current level. Do you have some kind of plan?"

"I have properly thought about that. That's right, for now please formally join our party. That way we could share the experience value obtained."

"Understood. Not only me, but I'll also ask Shallie to do it too."

Of course I have no intentions to leave the little girl out. Once I apply for the party, Diabell opened her status to accept. Although I do the same for Shallie, that girl had some trouble understanding what's going on.

"Shallie, try saying 'Status'."

"Staatuus? Ah, it appeared!"

"Then there should be something shining at the bottom. When you see it, try to accept it in your head. Try it."

"Yes!"

While Shallie lively answered, it seems she succeeded in the party application. I pat her head while saying "good girl" to her that is laughing with a smile. What a cute girl.

Aside from Shallie, I need to train Diabell for the fight against the floor master, so that she could be an important battle potential. As we descend the stairs, the 11th underground floor came into view.

Chapter 33: Meadow

Capital city's dungeon. Wide meadow spread on the 11th floor. The scenery completely changed once we came down that long stairs. At first we thought that it's a trap that warp us outside, but it seems to be different.

According to Diabell's explanation, the capital city's dungeon had a wide area depending on the level, and there are even floors that looks like another world inside too. This 11th floor seems to be of the latter kind. Although you can still see the rocky ceilings, its considerably high. I even saw some birds flying.

Some unknown grass seems to have grown to waist level. Since Shallie would get buried and disappear like this, I carried her piggyback-style. Seems like it's her first time on piggyback, as she's going "kya kya" behind me. Although we've advanced for a while we haven't seen other adventurers at all. On the other hand, enemy reactions appeared instead. Somewhere around 10?

Lets prepare to intercept before they arrived. I build a base about 2 meters in height using the earth magic that I've just learned, and put Shallie on top of it.

"Don't move from here okay?"

"Work hard, okay?"

I reply to her by waving my hand, and get down below to join the others. The base with Shallie on top is at our back, Claire and Diabell will use the long range attack, Lelena will focus on healing in the middle, Amyl will stick close to me as

the rear guard, and I will step forward as the attacker.

The group of enemies finally arrived once we finished the preparations. They're big monkeys with dark brown fur and white mane in the middle of the head.

Great Mane Monkey: Level 23

I cast explosion magic the moment they entered the range, sending light sphere flying. Although the enemies scatters themselves from the center of the explosion, those big monkeys still charged without care. Claire's bow shot from the back. Although it pierces and sticks to several enemies, they only flinched a little with barely any effect.

Diabell summons the spirit of the wind to create small tornado, cutting the enemies. They didn't even try to stop in the middle of the bloodshed. They're like those Berserkers that didn't care about taking damages. With this momentum they will likely be able to push through.

The enemy draws near both Amyl and me, it spreads its arm to crush us while jumping. But a huge wall suddenly appeared in front of them, causing those big monkeys to crashed into the wall one after another, stopping their movements. I raised the strength of the earth wall to its limit, so they won't get away unhurt. At the same time, Amyl retreats to the back with me. This is for the next strategy.

The big monkeys that doesn't crashed on the wall appeared. It just trample on top of their companions that fall down, staring at us with their bloodshot eyes.

“Goaaaa’!”

Although the number of those big monkeys had been decreased by half, their charge continues once again after that roar. But my next plan is already on the move. The big monkeys that advanced, all fall into a deep hole one by one. I had already prepared the pitfall about 2 meters deep when their charge had momentarily stopped.

The big monkeys had their movements obstructed by each other, thus we use the opportunity to launch our attacks on them. Fire ball from me, the arrows from Claire, Diabell summoning spirit of fire to burn them, Lelena attacking with a slingshot, and for Amy that doesn’t have any ranged weapon, he just picked up the nearby stones and threw it at them. As for what happens next...

Shallie had become very excited as we gather the big monkey’s monster cores and put them near her.

“Onii-chan and everyone is awesome~! It was an extremely scary monsters, and yet you guys finished them off in no time!”

She’s praising us while waving her tail. When I said that Shallie’s cheering also helped us, her tail was waving so fast like it was going to tear off.

“Is this how you fight? You’re thinking about various methods unlike other adventurers.”

Although fighting directly from the front is not that bad, I want to avoid taking damage as much as possible. I don’t care if it’s cowardice, life comes first.

“I have no intention of criticizing you. This way of fighting just suits me best.”

Diabell shows her daring smile. That’s good. There’s won’t be unpleasant thing like having trouble to accept my way of fight. After defeating those big monkeys, all of us level up.

Est : Level 28

HP 455/455

MP 362/362

Strength 234

Speed 238

Dexterity 239

Defense 224

Wisdom 251

Luck 132

Skills possessed:

『Experience Value Up : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

『Dexterity Up : Level 1』

『Mapping : Level 1』

『Wisdom Up : Level 2』

『Fire Magic : Level 2』

『No Chant : Level 1』

『Speed Up : Level 1』

『Stealth : Level 1』

『Strength Up : Level 1』

『Defense Up : Level 1』 |

『Shield : Level 2』

『Ice Magic : Level 1』

『Healing Magic : Level 1』

『HP Regeneration : Level 1』

『MP Regeneration : Level 1』

『Earth Magic : Level 1』

『A new skill can be acquired. Please choose from the list below:』

『Luck Up』

『Ice Magic : Level 2』

『Dexterity Up : Level 2』

『Strength Up : Level 2』

『Speed Up : Level 2』

『No Chant : Level 2』

Claire : Level 27

HP 389/389

MP 120/120

Strength 142

Speed 255

Dexterity 249

Defense 123

Wisdom 110

Luck 199

Skills Possessed:

『Archery : Level 3』

『Evasion : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 2』

『Rapid Shot : Level 1』

Amyl went up from Level 26 to 27. Lelena went up from 25 to 26 respectively. Diabell significantly rises from 19 to 23. The person in question seems to have been surprised that she suddenly went up 4 levels at once.

“This...how can this happen? Although they’re certainly strong enemies, they’re not something that would give so much experience value that makes me raise 4 levels at once.”

“You’re surprised as expected. We’re also like that at first. Its thanks to Est’s special skill.”

Amyl explained to the puzzled Diabell, about me having the Experience Value Up skill. Thanks to this skill, we managed to get from bronze to silver rank in less than a month.

“I’ve never heard about such skill before. You might be someone special.”

Diabell looks at me with glowing eyes different from normal. Somehow, even her speech pattern had changed. Claire was looking at us with displeased look. This is different okay, I don’t want any misunderstandings to happen. There’s only a little bit of guilty feelings in me.

“Say, Shallie also raised her level too.”

I’ve totally forgotten about Shallie’s level until Lelena mention it. When i look at Shallie again, she had rapidly went up from Level 1 to Level 12. How great. That’s only from the fight just now? Shallie had become speechless without knowing what to say. Let’s see both of their status.

Diabell : Level 23

HP 250/250

MP 318/318

Strength 85

Speed 189

Dexterity 197

Defense 98

Wisdom 264

Luck 177

Skills Possessed:

『Summon Spirit of the Flame : Level 2』

『Summon Spirit of the Wind : Level 2』

『Summon Spirit of the Earth : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 2』

Shallie : Level 12

HP 120/120

MP 19/19

Strength 51

Speed 89

Dexterity 78

Defense 43

Wisdom 18

Luck 97

Skills Possessed:

『Scent Classification : Level 1』

Just like she said, Diabell was able to use three types of spirit magic. It seems like she been using the sword regularly when she was still a soldier. Since she looks more like the wizard type based on her status, let's not send her to the front as much as possible.

Shallie had become a child with tremendous strength. She might even win against a newbie adventurer? As expected of the beastman, her speed and dexterity are high. It looks almost similar to Claire's. The one I'm concerned about is the 『Scent Classification : Level 1』 skill. Since she's a dog beastman, they have some specialty in smelling something? Lets ask the person in question when I had the chance.

About the skill this time, I decided to go with 『Strength Up : Level 2』. I want to avoid being pushed with strength when fighting with the enemies.

Chapter 34: Welcome Party

At the 11th floor wide area, there's gathered moat creating a small village. Although I don't see any pastures, it seems that they've dug some wells and also having some other things to support life.

There's strong fence to prevent the approach of the monsters around the village, surrounding the moat. Considering the power of the adventurers staying here, it can even be said that the defense is at the level of a small fort? With this they could even secure the safety of the merchant coming here to do business.

The merchants had built some facilities around this simple village. They provide necessary goods for the adventurer making them not having to go back up, and since they sell it more expensive than normal they could rake some huge profits. It's a win-win situation.

I feel like there's an inn too, but with only the wall and ceiling built to look like it. It could only be called a hut, and even more impossible to be called a house. Not to mention they charge 8 silver coins for a night. However there's an endless number of adventurers staying in such inn, so it had considerably prospered.

Naturally, since I have no intention of staying at such an inn, we move towards the edge of the simple village. Once I covered our surroundings with clay wall to block the glance of the outsiders, I decided to prepare a meal first. Since today's meal also included the welcoming party of Diabell and Shallie, let's make it a bit luxurious.

I take out the naan bread that I bought from outside, soak it in water and grill it a bit. Since naan bread is suitable for preservation, I heard that you can keep it for 2 years in a dry climate. However, in the dungeon you need to eat it before it starts to mold as the dungeon is humid.

Next, I chopped some mutton, carrot, onion and stir-fried them in a large pan. I put some rice, water and salts into a pot, close the lid and put on top of the fire until all the water got steamed. Once the moisture almost gone, I stir the whole mixture to complete it.

The deserts are dried fruit that got dried by using the sun. I also brought the little mead I have and divide it among everyone except Shallie, to make a toast. By the way, I provide fruit juice for Shallie.

“Although it’s a bit of a strange encounter, I’m glad we’re able to meet both of you. Diabell and Shallie, welcome to our party. Cheers!”

““Cheers!””

We bump our wooden mug with each other, as we managed to buy a few wooden tableware in this village even if the shops are few in numbers. Since neither Diabell nor Shallie had their tableware, I bought it as a replacement for the time being until we return to above ground.

Everyone eat the meal they wanted. Shallie is looking at Claire with interest in how a woman should act, trying to learn from her in various ways. Her lovely small mouth munching the food like a small hamster sure is cute. Since I’m going to get full with just looking at her, I averted my eyes somewhere else.

Amyl seems to imagine himself being taken care of by Lelena. His face is distorted. Although I don't understand why, I feel like kicking him when I look at his happy face.

As I finished eating earlier, I made the bath. I raised the ground, creating a bathtub that can fit around two people at once, increasing its strength to the maximum. I made a round hole about 5cm, putting a cork to plug it. With this it's even possible to drain it.

I put a block of ice on the bathtub with freezing magic and melt it slowly with flame magic. I adjust it not to make it too hot. Once it reach a suitable temperature, I urged the women to take a bath first, as I create a bath screen using the soil. Since I'm a gentleman, I won't peep. I've decided to properly pay money if I want to peep.

First is Claire and Lelena, then Diabell and Shallie, then me, and finally Amyl. Although I changed the hot water every time, I didn't change it when it's my turn. That's because it's unnecessary. There's no way water that is used by Diabell and Shallie could be dirty. Ah but I didn't forget to change the water after I take a bath. There's no way I'm giving it to Amyl.

[T.N: My nigga right here...]

Lets neatly head to bed earlier today. I crawl into the sleeping bag, and fortunately since here is a safety zone, there's no need for a lookout. I've already prepared some pitfalls in case of intruders. I won't neglect the precautions since there are many women and children here.

Next morning, I woke up as the ceiling of the dungeon became bright with some kind of unknown mechanism. Will it emit light after a certain time? Maybe the moss or something?

I greets Diabell that seems to have woken up before me.

“Good morning.”

Good morning, my lord.”

Nn? “My lord’? Her speech is definitely not like this yesterday.

“My lord had picked us up, and also the one that we owe our lives. I understood it all once I see everyone’s attitude. Everyone are counting on my lord. With you leadership and decision making ability to bring the others together, with benevolence to help the weak and without permitting any evil. Also having an unparalleled strength in both sword and magic. You are a true gentleman that deserves to be my master.”

[T.N: ‘true gentleman’, lol]

...I think the praise is going a bit overboard there? I don’t even remember having done some of what she said either. Even if she’s surprised at my Experience Value Up skill, this is a bit too much. She looks like the ‘do-as-I-like’ kind of person. She seems like the type that would get absorbed into an idol in Japan.

“My lord seems to have not notice it himself. Do you not know how special you are? That’s right! I want to form the slave contract with you again after we returned to above grounds. I want to entrust my future to act for my lord.”

If the person wants it, I have no objections. Is this okay? Well, I don’t want to think too much about it right now, so shall I just focus myself on defeating the

floor master for now?

[T.N: Don't fool yourself. Every 'gentleman' would have at least think once about having a dark elf as a slave.]

Chapter 35: Match

When everyone finished their preparation, we left the simple village. Since I didn't think we would be able to have a good rest in the dungeon, yesterday could be said to be lucky. everyone 's willpower had substantially increased.

It seems that aside from us, there are also several other parties that left the village. Since its going to be troublesome if we got into a fight over the monsters, we head in towards the different direction from them. Diabell tried to take care of me on our way, but Claire stops her every time, so she's showing a bit of an unsatisfied face right now.

Being the popular guy sure is hard~, but right now is not the time for me to say such thing. I want to avoid the situation where the mood of the party worsen because of me. Amyl and Lelena shows no intentions of butting in, showing that it's not of their concern.

"Calm down, both of you. Since you're companions from the same party, please get along well."

"But master, I think it's normal for me to be the one taking care of master."

"However Claire, as I am my lord's attendant don't you think it's natural for

me to attend to him?”

“I am still master’s first slave!”

I give up. This will get us nowhere. Since Claire had contracted as my slave before Diabell, I think of saying “leave it to you senpai”, but I don’t think that’s gonna work. Since I can’t order Diabell yet without the contract, she will just insist that they should decide by who’s stronger.

“Understood. Then let’s have a match!”

Claire-san? Why are you suddenly acting like a kid? You’re not supposed to be that aggressive.

“Is that okay, Claire? Although there’s some difference in level, do you think you have more combat experience than me?”

Don’t get provoked either, you. Both of them ignores me while preparing for their battle. Although they’re fighting because of me, I feel like they don’t even care about me right now. It seems impossible to stop this now. Can’t be helped, since it’s going to be difficult exploring the dungeon while leaving behind unpleasant feelings, I will decide the rules here.

“Understood. Then I will decide the rules. The rules are aside from the short

sword as the main weapon, you are only allowed to use you own body as a support. Magic and bow are prohibited. And stop before dealing the killing blows. Also, there will be no complain whatsoever after the results of this match. If you didn't follow this rule, I won't take either of you. Both of you fine with this?"

There doesn't seem to be any objections as both of them nods. We pause the dungeon exploration for a bit, not to mention Amyl and Elena are already in 'watching-the-show' mode. They even had tea and snacks prepared. By the way, Shallie is quietly sitting on top of Lelena's lap.

I took a distance and stood between those two as the referee and the healing staff, so I should be near when there's a chance anything bad happens. The two people prepared their dagger as they glared at each other. The tension rises, as I give the signal to start.

"Begin!"

At that instant Claire fiercely kicks the ground and close the distance. Diabell seems like she intends face her on the front as she does not move from her place. Claire put some power in her swing, but Diabell just warded it off by letting it slide from her sword.

Claire delivers the attacks one after another, but Diabell just concentrates on parrying with minimal movements. Originally Claire exceeds in both speed and power, so Diabell is using the strategy of strengthening her defense while looking for an opening.

Both of them had the same 'Swordsmanship: Level 2'. This is going to be advantageous for Claire with higher stamina if this turned into a prolonged battle. However she seems to be in a hurry, as she sometimes put too much power and hit nothing. She intends to push with just power alone. Diabell that had lowered herself on the ground to dodge seems to have been waiting for this.

Claire's sword that missed the target suddenly moved upward, breaking her posture. Diabell did a leg sweep there, making Claire tripped helplessly.

"Got you!"

Convinced of her victory, Diabell tried to aim her sword toward Claire's neck. However, something suddenly coiled around her dominant arm, momentarily breaking her posture. Diabell was surprised as the tip of Claire's sword seems to pointing at her eye.

"With this it's over."

"...to think you would use your tail. It's totally my defeat for not taking the trait of the beastman into consideration."

When I approach the two who's breathing roughly, I checked whether they have any injuries. Both of them seems to be okay. Diabell holds out her arm to the retreating Claire. Although she hesitated for a moment, she shook Diabell's hand while smiling wryly.

"Its my complete defeat. A promise is a promise. I will entrust the care of my Lord to Claire in the future."

"If there's magic, I might have been the one defeated."

That's good. There's the saying that 'the ground gets stronger after raining', so I guess everything becomes better now? I think that this is only a one time thing.

[T.N: Not good at proverb. "雨降って地固まる". Something about being able to get a good result because of facing some trouble.]

"Although the duty as the attendant is entrusted to Claire, our match as a woman had just begun. Let's have a match about who's going to conceive my Lord's child first."

"Eeh!? What are you saying!? Master and I are not in such a relationship..."

Diabell suddenly blurt out such an unexpected thing without even thinking about me. Claire is blushing red right now. Ah, she averted her gaze as soon as

she saw me. Yeah. I kind of understood what you're thinking right now even if you didn't face me. Ouch! Don't throw stone at me, Amyl! For now, my aim is to decide what to do with these two. Anyway, it's good that the unity between our companions had increased. Shall we resume our exploration?

Chapter 36: Soldier Ant

There's only 2 dog sized ants at first, then suddenly another 3 appeared. Although as they're just level 20 meaning it's not a powerful enemy that we can't defeat, a new one always comes out while we were fighting, completely surrounding us before we were aware of it.

Soldier Ant: Level 20

They're not that strong one on one. Not to mention they can be attacked easily since they're slow, and they could be almost killed in just one of our attack. However it's a different story once their number increased. While I killed one of them, another one injured me by biting me from the back. Even if they're just small insects, the power is strong. Now that they've become this size, they've become a threat that could take your life.

Everyone had been injured while breathing roughly. Although we recover instantly thanks to the level up, it didn't really mean much as we receive more attacks from the enemies. I don't even remember anymore if the number that I've killed is 10 or 20.

Shallie whom I put at the base is already closed to tears, looking at us anxiously. Although I tried to tell her that we're fine, since I discovered an ant trying to climb up the base, I rush up and kills it. There's no way to defend with the way things are going. Lets try to break through and escape.

Amyl is in charge of the place where the number of enemies are the highest. He's bleeding here and there, but still desperately swinging his sword. I feel bad

looking at him bleeding like that. Explosion magic is the most effective at the place with crowded enemies. If I clear up the group of enemies that Amyl is fighting, I should be able to create a path to retreat.

“Amyl! It’s going to hurt a bit, but please endure it!”

“I’m busy right n-...eh!?”

The blast of explosion magic that I shoot entered his view. He jumped back in a hurry while screaming, before the blast reached the group of enemies. Intense explosion can be heard as the head, arms and feet of the ant flew everywhere. I’m sorry for Amyl who’s nearby but I’m glad he managed to avoid it safely. He’s tumbling around from the impact of the blast. He looks like that tumble weed grass from the west.

[T.N: No idea about the last part]

“Wh-what do you think y-...!”

“You can complain later! Everyone, run away!”

The falling Amyl tried to say something but I just pick him up. Claire had already recovered Shallie, as Diabell and Lelena can run by themselves. The remnants of the ants start chasing us, forcing me to create earth wall and shoot explosion magic again.

Once we managed to shake off the enemies and catch our breath, all the members just sat down in place. That was a really close call.

“That was dangerous. We could have been annihilated there.”

“That’s right. As the enemies keeps on appearing, I think retreating was the correct judgement.”

“...though I might have been killed by you instead.”

Amyl is looking at me with half opened eyes. Its all good since we’re all okay right? Why are you complaining when Lena seems totally okay about it?

“...did I say something funny?”

Although he looks puzzled, I’ll close my mouth now as it will only backfired if I said anything. Let’s leave Amyl alone for now, and think about how to handle those Soldier Ants. Lena and I started using healing magic on the injured person. Once I check the current status, it seems that everyone had level up.

Est : Level 30

HP 495/495

MP 389/389

Strength 268

Speed 251

Dexterity 250

Defense 242

Wisdom 298

Luck 143

Skills Possessed:

- 『Experience Value Up : Level 2』
- 『Swordsmanship : Level 3』
- 『Dexterity Up : Level 1』
- 『Mapping : Level 1』
- 『Wisdom up : Level 2』
- 『Flame Magic : Level 2』[T.N: This sounds better than Fire magic]
- 『No Chant : Level 1』
- 『Speed Up : Level 1』
- 『Stealth : Level 1』
- 『Strength Up : Level 2』
- 『Defense Up : Level 1』
- 『Shield : Level 2』
- 『Ice Magic : Level 1』
- 『Healing Magic : Level 1』
- 『HP Regeneration : Level 1』
- 『MP Regeneration : Level 1』
- 『Earth Magic : Level 1』

『2 new skills can be acquired. Please choose from the list:』

- 『Luck Up』
- 『Ice Magic : Level 2』
- 『Dexterity up : Level 2』
- 『Speed Up : Level 2』
- 『No Chant : Level 2』
- 『Swordsmanship : Level 4』

『Flame Magic : Level 3』

Claire : Level 29

HP 411/411

MP 134/134

Strength 161

Speed 299

Dexterity 287

Defense 138

Wisdom 124

Luck 213

Skills Possessed:

『Archery : Level 3』

『Evasion : Level 3』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

『Rapid Shot : Level 2』

Diabell : Level 26

HP 282/282

MP 360/360

Strength 101

Speed 205

Dexterity 210

Defense 107

Wisdom 306

Luck 197

Skills Possessed:

『Summon Spirit of the Flame : Level 3』

『Summon Spirit of the Wind : Level 3』

『Summon Spirit of the Earth : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

Shallie : Level 20

HP 208/208

MP 56/56

Strength 87

Speed 155

Dexterity 143

Defense 77

Wisdom 31

Luck 141

Skills Possessed:

『Scent Classification : Level 2』

Amyl went up from level 27 to 29. Lelena went up from 26 to 28 respectively. Since it's a fierce battle, it seems that some of Claire's and Diabell's skill level had went up. Since I've reach the targeted Level 30, I guess I'm already in the range of Gold rank? Even Shallie had reach Level 20. Although I didn't know whether they have a ranking at the guild, but if there is, she's going to beat the record the youngest and the fastest at leveling up.

What skill should I take now? Although it's good to take Swordsmanship to strengthen the vanguard of our party, I'm still an easy target during a confused fight, so it didn't have that many benefits for the party. Since the current me won't run out of MP even if I fired magic non-stop, I should strengthen my magic right now.

Fortunately, it seems that I can choose 2 skills this time. With that I took 『No Chant : Level 2』 and 『Flame Magic : Level 3』. Let's settle our battle with this.

Chapter 37: Shallie's Special Training

Let's test the new magic first before we start fighting again. Since I raised the level of No Chant, it seems that the time between my image and the magic released had been shortened. I only need half the normal time required to successfully shoot the magic.

My current type of flame magic is the one that shoots out, and creating flame ball. Now in addition to the ability of creating an explosion, I could also create multiple flame spears that could penetrate the target.

I could now shoot 3 fireballs at once. The versatility increased too, as it seems that I could drop the power to increase the numbers instead. For the explosion magic, it seems that the area of effect increased by twofold, that when I tried it on the ground 100 meters away, I still got blown off by the shock wave. The power is too big that it can't really be used in battle. But since I could reduce its power and shoot 2 or 3 of it, I could use this as my main attack.

As I could defeat the same number of enemies with half the usual time, it can be said that my offensive ability had been doubled or more. That's quite advantageous.

Before making the strategy, let's think about whether we should ignore the soldier ants and just advance. Our final objective is defeating the floor master,

so it is not necessary for us to fight the soldier ants.

“I’m a bit worn out fighting such a large amount of ants here, so should we raise our level at the lower floor?” (Lelena)

“Yeah. There’s too many enemies this time, we might not be able to handle it.” (Diabell)

“No, I think this is good to raise our power. It might even be 2 or 3 times faster than normal.” (Amyl)

Lelena and Diabell thinks we should just ignore them and advance, Amyl think we should defeat those ants to raise our abilities. Both of the opinions are not wrong.

“What do you think, Est?”

“I...I think we should stay here and fight. Even if we go down to the lower floor, the enemy won’t necessarily become easier for us. Not to mention if we can’t even defeat monsters of this degree, you really think it’s possible for us to defeat the Floor Master?” (Est)

Since I choose to fight, everyone else also decided to defeat those ants. The problem now is how to defeat them.

My 『Stealth』 skill become useful for the first time in a while. When I go back alone to the place we fought before, several of those ants are still in the surroundings. When I follow one of them returning back to base without being noticed thanks to my skill, I was able to confirm that it dove into a hole heading underground. I also observed as several other ants come and go from that hole. There's no mistake that this is their nest.

“Their nest is probably there. When there's a nest, that means the ant queen is there too.” (Est)

It doesn't change our intention of annihilating those ants. The problem is how to do it. Blocking the entrance with explosion magic is out of question. Flooding it is also difficult. Then there's nothing we can do except cut them all. That's also impossible as long as we did not defeat the ant queen. Only then would it be possible to defeat them all.

“It would be bad to fight outside as we could get surrounded. We could only fight them in front of their nest. Although the danger of not being able to escape increased, I also think that the chance of success is higher.” (Est)

Since everyone agree with my plan, what's left is to execute it. The problem is what to do with Shallie. There's no way we could leave her alone, and taking her along would be more dangerous. Although I do think about taking her back to the simple village, but...

“No! I want to be together with everyone!” (Shallie)

She stubbornly refuse to go. She refused even when Diabell persuades her, and in the end she stats clinging on my leg and refuse to let go.

“Understood. Let’s go together then. But you need to listen to what I say.”
(Est)

Her expression brightens up when I allows her to. This could be dangerous. That’s it! Since Shallie had become level 20, she should be able to fight a little. It should be trying.

“Shallie, can you have a sword practice with me?” (Est)

“Practice?” (Shallie)

“Master, do you want to let Shallie fight?” (Claire)

Although Claire says that anxiously, it’s probably alright. Her status is not just for show. When I hand her my spare dagger and teach her how to swing a

sword, her movements became sharper when she repeats the move a number of times.

Next is practice on evasion. When I attack her using the stick that I pick up from a tree, after having her eyes get used to it first, she managed to successfully avoid it after that. Lastly I do a mock battle with her using real dagger.

Shallie's movement is considerably quick. At this level she is clearly faster than Amyl. I almost got hit when I let my guard down. Not to mention as it's hard to hit her because of how small she is, she might have some talent. After having done a few mock battles with her, with this I could say that it's safe for her to have those ants as her opponent.

"Master, will Shallie be useful?" (Shallie)

"Of course. It would be really helpful for us if Shallie joins." (Est)

Her tail almost got torn off from her waving when I pat her head.

"My confidence..." (Amyl)

Don't get depressed, Amyl. although there also the help from her level, but she's a genius. I might not be able to win against her if we're of the same level.

When I confirmed her status again, Swordsmanship had been added to her skill.

Shallie : Level 20

HP 208/208

MP 56/56

Strength 87

Speed 155

Dexterity 143

Defense 77

Wisdom 31

Luck 141

Skills Possessed:

『Scent Classification : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 2』

She raised it to level 2 with just a simple practice? After Amyl left, she might become a valuable vanguard for our party. Anyway, with this the chance of success had increased. It's finally time to head to the ant's nest.

Chapter 38: Queen Ant

We quickly handled the one guarding the entrance, and then blocked the entrance with clay wall after all of us had entered. If I didn't do this, we might have to face some surprise attacks from the returning ants. It seems that they've noticed our invasions, as they are now moving in a hurry.

"The vanguard are Amyl and me! Claire should check for the surrounding danger! Shallie, don't leave from Diabell's side!" (Est)

"Understood!" (Claire)

"Got it~!" (Shallie)

The ant's nest is quite large. Although the entrance is a bit small, the insides are so wide that 3 people can walk side by side. Since the ants are surging from the front one after another, let's immediately test my improved flame magic.

3 flaming spears appeared around me when I imagined it in my mind. I imagine it aiming towards the ants to increase the penetration rate. The ants in front being pushed from the one at the back had no other other choice but to advance even if they want to avoid it. The flame starts bursting after piercing through, burning many of them together.

The ants raised their agonized screams and fall one after another. However for the following ants, they start climbing over the corpses of their companions like it was nothing. Claire and the other provides support with arrows and magic. We managed to repulse the waves of ants several times piling the corpses in front of us, but a hole suddenly opened between the vanguard and everyone at the back.

Several ants came crawling from that hole. Do they dig the hole while we're fighting!? Although I got a bit impatient as we got divided, we don't have to go back to help, as the neck of the ants that appeared got cut off.

"Ei~!" (Shallie)

Shallie showed her wonderful skill while raising a lovely shout. That surprised me. She might already be able to fight splendidly.

"Well done Shallie!"

Shallie had a joyful expression while waving her hands when I said that. Some ants seems to still appeared from the opened hole. Diabell stopped me when I tried to close it with Earth Magic.

“My lord, please leave this to me.”

Diabell starts concentrating after saying that. Once I felt that the air around Diabell shook for an instance, a big lizard clad in flames suddenly appeared in the next moment. This is...a Salamander?”

“Go!”

After Diabell gives that short order, the Salamander advanced slowly towards the new hole. Although some ant tried biting it, their opponent is a huge mass of fire. They start burning after attacking. I guess insects have no fear, as they just pass by from the side of their burning companions and continued attacking. However the Salamander greatly inhaled, spitting a terrifying amount of fire from its mouth.

The approaching ants were swallowed by the flame without being able to do anything aside from turning to ash. I guess Spirit Magic is considerably strong too. Its pretty convenient as you don't have to act as the vanguard yourself.

No matter how many they are, they cant just spring out endlessly. The number of enemies appearing had decreased whenever we advance. We passed through the body of the ants that we cut and burn. We can't afford to collect the monster cores in this situation.

No one said anything, but we're all tired and injured. Claire and Shallie had their ears drooping. They'll reach their limit soon.

We exerted our energy to advance, until we reached a huge cave that could even be called a large hall. Rice grain-like thing the size of a human sticks to the wall in large quantities. That should be the egg of the Soldier Ants. Being surrounded by those large amount of eggs, at the center of it is an abnormally big ant with the lower part of the body being 3 meters long.

“Is that the Queen Ant?”

“We’ve finally located it.”

Reacting to us who readied our weapons, the Queen Ant slowly stands up and starts threatening us. Our MP had already reached rock bottom. I’ll be running out of bullet after one or two more shots. I created the image for explosion magic. Once the ball of light appeared, I fired it aiming at the Queen Ant’s feet.

Her body size become her disadvantage as she can avoid it, the magic reached the Queen Ant’s feet without missing, exploding and tearing her foot. That should deal some damage. It’s going to take her a while to recover.

Although the Queen Ant came rushing at us furiously, all of us had spread out.

“I’m going!” (Claire)

Claire starts using her Rapid Shot, as large amount of arrows starts piercing the Queen Ant's body and stuck there one after another. Transparent body fluid starts to overflow from the wounds. Some part of her body looks like hedgehog now.

"Answer my summons, Salamander!" (Diabell)

Diabell exerted her last bit of energy to summon the Salamander. The summoned Salamander start spewing out flames while biting the Queen Ants. the Queen Ants started biting back with her huge jaws. The salamander's flaming body starts melting her jaws, disappearing just like that. The movements of the Queen Ants had become dull, trying to fight us in close combat.

"Yaah!" (Lelena)

"Eat this you monster!" (Amyl)

Lelena flings her morning star without stopping, while Amyl keeps on using his Bamboo Splitter skill to cut the rest of the Queen Ant's feet. Shallie used my shoulders to fly over.

"You big scary thing~!" (Shallie)

Shallie swung down her dagger, splendidly cutting the Queen Ant.

I then jumped on the back of the Queen Ant, aiming for the thinnest part of the body which is between the chest and abdomen, swinging down the sword down several times.

“With this, it’s farewell!” (Est)

Although I almost got shaken off a few times by the violently struggling Queen Ant, I clings decisively, until I finally managed to split her in two.

The Queen Ant could no longer endure after having her body split in two, her struggling limbs had gradually stops moving, until the light of her eyes finally disappeared. It seems that we’ve managed to defeat it somehow. When I confirmed that it no longer moves, all of us threw our weapons and fall on the ground. It can’t be helped. We’ve really reached our limit.

And suddenly all of us felt energy filling us. It’s the level up.

Est : Level 34

HP 545/545

MP 431/431

Strength 311

Speed 289

Dexterity 288

Defense 276

Wisdom 334

Luck 166

Skills Possessed:

- 『Experience Value Up : Level 2』
- 『Swordsmanship : Level 3』
- 『Dexterity Up : Level 1』
- 『Mapping : Level 1』
- 『Wisdom Up : Level 2』
- 『Flame Magic : Level 3』
- 『No Chant : Level 2』
- 『Speed up : Level 1』
- 『Stealth : Level 1』
- 『Strength Up : Level 2』
- 『Defense Up : Level 1』
- 『Shield : Level 2』
- 『Ice Magic : Level 1』
- 『Healing Magic : Level 1』
- 『HP Regeneration : Level1 』
- 『MP Regeneration : Level 1』
- 『Earth Magic : Level 1』

『2 new skills can be acquired. Please choose from the list:』

『Luck Up』

『Ice Magic : Level 2』

『Dexterity Up : Level 2』

『Speed Up : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 4』

『Healing Magic : Level 2』

Claire : Level 32

HP 440/440

MP 145/145

Strength 192

Speed 356

Dexterity 343

Defense 151

Wisdom 139

Luck 248

Skills Possessed:

『Archery : Level 4』

『Evasion : Level 3』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

『Rapid Shot : Level 3』

『Power Shot : Level 1』

[T.N: 強弓 in the raws, something like strong bow. Feel free to give me better

name]

Diabell : Level 29

HP 308/308

MP 418/418

Strength 120

Speed 224

Dexterity 227

Defense 119

Wisdom 368

Luck 224

Skills Possessed:

『Summon Spirit of the Flame : Level 3』

『Summon Spirit of the Wind : Level 3』

『Summon Spirit of the Earth : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

Shallie : Level 25

HP 248/248

MP 68/68

Strength 125

Speed 197

Dexterity 189

Defense 91

Wisdom 45

Luck 184

Skills Possessed:

『Scent Classification : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

『Great Jump : Level 1』

Amyl went up from Level 29 to 32. Lelena went up from 28 to 31 respectively. Thanks to the fierce battle, the level of everyone seems to have greatly improved. Like this we're already Gold-rank in term of just level.

Claire seems to have reached the mastery of level 4 for Archery. She obtained a new skill called 『Power Shot』. It might be a skill to shoot off a single powerful blow.

Shalie had raised 5 levels. She's already as strong as a Silver-rank. Even in the fight this time, she had helped a lot too. She seems to have grown up mentally, so it should be safe to leave the role of vanguard to her. I'm also interested in the 『Great Jump』 skill. Please use me as a springboard~! She might have gained the skill during that time. She should treat it like a combined technique.

Diabell is just one step before Level 30. She wouldn't have any problem with the next fight. What kind of skills should I acquire this time? Since I've take magic before, let's try to increase my physical offensive ability here. So with that, I acquired 『Swordsmanship: Level 4』 and 『Speed up: Level 2』.

Thanks to this fight, our fight with the Floor Master soon will be easier. After we collected the monster cores as much as possible, shall we get out of this place?

Chapter 39: Appeared

A monster core the size of a person's head came out from the Queen Ant's body. Shining in white, I understood that it's of a considerably high quality. It seems that it would fetch a high price. Although we dismantled all the other Soldier Ants, what comes out was just a plain black stone. Since this cannot be sold, let's give up on collecting them.

We discussed about what to do with the eggs stuck on the wall, and thus decided to destroy all of them since it's going to be troublesome when they hatch. I burned them one after another with my recovered magic power. Since its going to be bad if even one of them are left, I destroyed them carefully.

We returned towards the entrance without meeting any Soldier Ants that survived and removed the clay wall, and since we met a few Soldier Ants scattering about since they can't enter, we quickly cleaned up the place.

We finally returned back to the meadow. I stretch myself while filling my lung with the fresh air. Although the sky is not blue, there's still this wonderful sense of relief. At that time, I heard a great rumbling sound, as it seems to came from Shallie's stomach. I guess she's hungry, as Shallie was rubbing her stomach with downed ear. Well, she's in her growth period. I need to feed her a lot.

“Alright, shall we have a meal?” (Est)

Shallie is not the only one pleased to hear that. Everyone sits on their favorite spot. Now then, what should i make today?

I take out the beef and pork that had been preserved in the tool bag. While I cut them finely into minced meat, I fry the onion that Claire had cut nicely and then cool it. I soaked the bread crumbs that Lelena had prepared in milk. I throw all the ingredients into the pan along with salt and pepper as seasonings. I mixed them together until the stickiness appears. I keep on mixing them earnestly.

Once I take it out, I put some oil in the pan and heat it up on low heat, divide the minced meat and grilled them until it got burnt in the center on both sides. It finally completes once both sides got burnt. The simple hamburger steak is ready. But this is not the end. I sprinkle some sauce that I brought from the town, and then place the hamburger between the bread that I had cut, thus completing the hamburger.

“Yummy~!” (Shallie)

“It really is delicious, Master!” (Claire)

“My lord even knows how to cook..?” (Diabell)

It seems that everyone likes it. The combination of placing meat in between the bread is mysteriously delicious huh. Although the amount is not much, I managed to cover it with taste. Now that we've filled our bellies, it's time to decide our next move. Since there's still no information of a Floor Master appearing, I guess it's okay to make our temporary aim to go to the lower floor?

"Although I'm not sure if this is helpful or not, according to the information that I heard before, it seems to appear between 10th floor to 13th floor on average. No countermeasures can be set up as the monster that appeared is different every single time." (Diabell)

Diabell offered the information that she had during the time she was used as a shield. Or rather, how would you know even if it do appear? It would be nice if it got something that would reveal it as a Floor Master though.

"If it's that, then it's easy. Title as a Floor Master should appear in its status. You should be able to understand if you see it." (Diabell)

Title? First time I heard about that. Will anything be different if they have it?

"I also knew about that. Although it depends on the title, I heard that most title seems to greatly improves the status. Many famous adventurers hold some titles. Although there are various kind of conditions to obtain a title, it seems that it's possible to get a title when you defeat the Floor Master, however only the one who deals the finishing blow will be able to obtain the title." (Diabell)

Only limited to the one who deals the finishing blow huh...it would have been good if all of us managed to get it. Anyway, it's good that we're able to obtain some informations even if its just a little. It will likely appear if we advanced as it is. According to the map, the stairs to the 12th floor seems to be not that far.

Without encountering any enemy's attacks since the Soldier Ants, we're able to arrive at the stairs immediately. However the situation around the stair is a bit weird. There are several parties of adventurers who suffered injuries appeared from the lower floor. Did something abnormal happened?

"...A Floor Master appeared. Although there are several other parties other than us, we're the only one that managed to escape."

He told me that while borrowing my shoulder and dragging his foot. Their weapons are broken, and all of the members are tattered. I used healing magic as I still have a lot of MP. Thanks to the level up, it seems that the recovery speed becomes faster. The adventurers who recovered from the injury give us the information about the Floor Master as thanks.

"It's a person leading a huge crowd of undeads. It looks like a specter of a knight without a head. It's really strong, so be careful if you want to fight it."

I advised them to return to the simple village. Fortunately, as there's no more Soldier Ants, they would likely be able to safely return. Still, a headless knight...

is it a Dullahan? Some said that it is a strong undead said to reap a person's life. However with our current power, it would be beneficial for us to fight against undead. I have my Flame and Healing Magic, also Lelena's Healing Magic and Diabell's Spirit Magic.

"Everyone ready?" (Est)

Everyone nodded with a serious face. We've finally come this far, we can't lose here. We head down the stairs with me in the lead. Garbage like smell becomes stronger with every step we descend. Since they said there's a large hordes of undeads, this should be the smell of rotten corpses.

Although we could still handle it somehow, its a severe environment for Claire and Shallie who are a beastman. Claire had a displeased look while Shallie was holding her nose with teary eyes. I make a simple mask using damp towel. They should feel slightly better with this. Amyl is breathing using his mouth. You're really stupid aren't you?

Once we finished going down the stairs, there's already many corpses scattered here and there, from new ones to the old ones. The new one should be from the adventurers that got attacked previously. I really don't want to end up like them.

The space on this floor is pretty wide. Although not as wide as the 11th floor, the height should be around 10 meters or more. We should be able to fight

properly here.

And then, once the hordes of undeads noticed us, they start heading toward us at a slow pace. There's around 200 to 300 of them, or more. It totally looks like the old-school zombie movie. Although their movements are slow, some of them are big while some of them have a small body. With this speed we should be able to deal with them easily.

There's no need to hold back. Allow me to use without reserve the explosion magic that I can't find any opportunity to use before. I build a clay wall surrounding everyone. I work an image of explosion occurring in the middle of the enemy groups. And then, I aimed the magic towards the enemies once I fill it with enough magic power.

With an earsplitting explosion sound, we lay down as the shock wave from the blast came above our head. After a bit of delay, some of the soil and the undead's body parts dropped in front of us.

"KYAAAA! NOOO!" (Diabell)

A rotten human head suddenly fell in front of us. Diabell who got out of character is pretty cute. She starts kicking the head outside in a panic.

When I lean forward to see the situation outside, most of the enemy groups had scattered. There's only around 100 left. And , although I didn't see it

before, riding a headless horse in the interior of the group, a headless knight appeared. So that is a Floor Master huh? We finally found it. Let's show it our strength.

Chapter 40: Floor Master

Although I did use that explosion magic on them, the Dullahan came charging than expected. It then approach us, with a large shield that could hide its body, as well as a greatsword that is even bigger than Amyl's. As it is riding a horse, it is currently an enemy with the highest mobility that we've faced. That intimidating feeling can't be called ordinary either. Since it swing its sword in that charging condition when we crossed swords, I got thrown away along with my sword.

"Guuh!" (Est)

As expected of rushing while mounted on a horse, what a terrifying and heavy blow. My hand still felt numb because of that attack. Coming here with that explosive power, the Dullahan then just passed us. I see, the 'hit and run' tactics huh? Then let's use this tactic here.

I kill all the small fries before the Dullahan returns. I keep on spamming fireball nonstop towards the enemies as much as I can. Each of my shot hit as it covered a wide range. Everyone also attacked nonstop. The Salamander that Diabell had summoned turned the undeads to ash one after another. The flame attack is working alright.

When Lelena covered the enemy group with ranged Healing magic, their body

start to collapse. Priest type is their natural enemy. When Claire used his archery skill's 『Power Shot』, it penetrates several undeads while crushing their heads in a straight line. That's not the kind of offensive power you would expect from a bow.

Amyl and Shallie keeps on beheading any undeads that managed to approach us. These two had quite a good combination. While in this confusing fight, they moved well while covering each other's back, so I could be at ease.

Meanwhile, the Dullahan had begun its second charge. Although I tried to directly fight with it before, there's no need to do it twice. I already know the weakness of riding a horse for a long time.

I strengthen the image and deployed the magic. What I'm using is the Earth magic. It's a simplified version of the enclosure fence that I imagined the Oda's army used in the Battle of Nagashino. I make a swamp at the place near the Dullahan, decreasing its mobility. I dig the ground and create a moat while its speed is reduced. I also build the enclosure fence with simple earthworks and waited. I didn't forget to add splinter as a substitute for the barbed wire to the fence.

I used the flame spears as a substitute for the gun corps from the gaps of the enclosure fence. The Dullahan threw itself into the enclosure fence to approach me while parrying the flame spears with its large shield and great sword. The headless horse took great damage as it falls into the moat, no longer able to battle.

But the moment the horse fell, the Dullahan jumps from the horse back and throw its great sword towards me. I managed to block it with my shield somehow. That single blow is way too strong. I should bring this to an end as fast as I can.

I once again faces the Dullahan while checking its status.

Dullahan : Level 40『Floor Master』

It's a damn level 40! Besides, there's a face on its large shield. This guy really had bad taste. Isn't a Dullahan the type that even went shopping in the supermarket while holding the head under its arm? That face laugh with a smirk. It seems to be confident that it can beat me.

The Dullahan delivers a single strike at where I stood, making me evade at the very last minute. I counter attack with my sword, but it was easily parried by the large shield. Although the Dullahan keeps on attacking nonstop, I managed to fend it off somehow. However, since all I could do is just parrying, there's no room to counter attack. Even after I've raise the Swordsmanship to Level 4 which is the same as an expert, it still end up like this.

Whenever I parried its attacks, I have a feeling that my strength is decreasing. No, this is not just my imagination. There's some secrets to that great sword. I immediately kicked backwards to take some distance. There's not that high

chance of me winning in direct confrontation. Everyone else can't provide support as they are busy with the undeads. I'm really in a bind here.

Let's try firing the small fireball nonstop first. Although most of it are blocked with the shield, the others are cut with the great sword. However, although the fireball blocked by the large shield scattered the flame, the fireball that had been cut by the greatsword disappeared like it got absorbed into the sword.

I see. With this I found a way out. I will go all out this time. I close the distance in an instant and swing my sword with my best effort. I keep on attacking without giving the Dullahan and chance to relax. However, unlike the Dullahan who's an undead, my physical strength is not infinite. My attacks becomes duller every time it got parried by the large shield, and then the great sword was shoved into my breastplate which had been wide open. My left side had been stabbed. I understood that it had crushed my bones and penetrated the internal organs. It's too painful that I can't even raised a scream. Red blood starts to overflows from my mouth.

"Master!" (Claire)

"Est!" (Amyl)

"My Lord!" (Diabell)

"Master, don't die~!" (Shallie)

"Est! I'll cast recovery now..!" (Lelena)

The eerie face on that large shield shows a triumphant smile. It intends to tease about my death without delivering the finishing blow. But you let your guard down. It my win once I managed to take down your head!

I catch the arm of the Dullahan that pull out the sword. I unleashed the magic that I have imagined. Bright light was shot from my body, healing my wounds instantly. And in reverse of that, the body of the Dullahan collapsed with a rattling sounds. The large shield raised its scream at the last moment. It's a scream of an evil spirit that tried to somehow clings to the mortal world.

Once I see the great sword absorbing the magic, I start to think of a way to let it absorb the Healing Magic which is the weakness of the undead. Since it could easily avoid it if it was a range attack, I need to let it get close to me to make sure of it. Since this is the only way for me to defeat a stronger opponent like this, I'm literally risking my life here.

"Master!" (Claire)

Claire who had defeated the small fries came back for me. When I can't move from Claire who had suddenly jumped to me, Shallie had also jumped to me from the back. You both are heavy.

“You really make me worried there! However, I’m glad that you’re safe!”
(Amyl)

“I’m glad you’re safe. I really thought that it was already hopeless.” (Lelena)

Amyl keeps on shaking my hands. Lelena is full with tears. I guess everyone couldn’t hold back their worries. However, with this we have accomplished our goal. Lets celebrate the victory now!

Chapter 41: Guild Master

I once again confirm our status. Having defeated the Undead Floor Master, all of us seems to have become stronger beyond comparison than before.

Est : Level 41 『Floor Master Subjugator』 『Immortal Killer』

HP 830/830

MP 765/765

Strength 675

Speed 593

Dexterity 589

Defense 512

Wisdom 683

Luck 256

Skills Possessed:

『Experience Value Up : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 4』

『Dexterity Up : Level 1』

『Mapping : Level 1』

『Wisdom Up : Level 2』

『Flame Magic : Level 3』

『No Chant : Level 2』

『Speed Up : Level 2』

『Stealth : Level 1』

『Strength Up : Level 2』

『Defense Up : Level 1』

『Shield : Level 2』

『Ice Magic : Level 1』

『Healing Magic : Level 1』

『HP Regeneration : Level 1』

『MP Regeneration : Level 1』

『Earth Magic : Level 1』

『4 new skills can be acquired. Please choose from the list below:』

『Luck up』

『Ice magic : Level 2』

『Dexterity Up : Level 2』

『Wisdom Up : Level 3』

『Shield : Level 3』

『Healing magic : Level 2』

『Earth Magic : Level 2』

『Defense Up : Level 2』

『Experience Value Up : Level 3』

Claire : Level 40『Floor Master Subjugator』

HP 577/577

MP 204/204

Strength 299

Speed 510

Dexterity 502

Defense 288

Wisdom 199

Luck 385

Skills Possessed:

『Archery : Level 4』

『Evasion : Level 3』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

『Rapid Shot : Level 4』

『Power Shot : Level 2』

Diabell : Level 36『Floor Master Subjugator』

HP 378/378

MP 564/564

Strength 189

Speed 321

Dexterity 327

Defense 200

Wisdom 481

Luck 297

Skills Possessed:

『Summon Spirit of the Flame : Level 4』

『Summon Spirit of the Wind : Level 3』

『Summon Spirit of the Earth : Level 2』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

Shallie : Level 32『Floor Master Subjugator』

HP 356/356

MP 111/111

Strength 266

Speed 325

Dexterity 319

Defense 189

Wisdom 99

Luck 304

Skills Possessed:

『Scent Classification : Level 3』

『Swordsmanship : Level 3』

『Great Jump : level 1』

『Evasion : Level 2』

Amyl went up from level 32 to 39. Lelena went up from 31 to 38 respectively. It seems that everyone managed to get the 『Floor master Subjugator』 title. It might be the influence of the title, as the growth of our abilities seems to be greater than usual. I'm the only one who managed to get the 『Immortal Killer』 title. Is it thanks to the two title, when I compare the me who fights the Dullahan before, it's like I'm a totally different person.

“My Lord...such terrific strength” (Diabell)

“Oi oi, this status growth is totally abnormal. It's like you're no longer human.” (Amyl)

“Or rather, this is no longer at the level of Gold-rank anymore.” (Lelena)

Everyone got surprised once they confirmed my status. Certainly, it's a strength that if I were to have a rematch with the Dullahan again, I could win with room to spare. The Gold-rank is already certain with this.

There are so many things that had the level increased this time, that I could acquire as many as 4 skills. With this I raise the 『Ice』, 『Healing』 and 『Earth』 magic to level 2 respectively, as well as taking the 『Experience Value Up : Level 3』 which is the top priority.

Now let's work hard on collecting the monster cores. Although I say that, I can't expect much from the undead's monster core which is only like a pebble. Just like the soldier ants, there's not that many monster cores that I could collect from the small fries. However, should I say as expected, the monster core of the Dullahan was stunning.

The size is not that big, but it's a beautiful transparent monster core without any impurities. Nobody will notice even if I said it was a jewel. This will surely fetch a huge sum of money. And, there's also another thing that can be collected from the Dullahan.

For example it's the great sword that badly tormented me. It deprives your physical strength while ignoring the defense, it's a magic sword that could even absorb projectile magic. This is a present for Amyl. It will just get in the way of the shield for me, and the other members only used dagger. A sword the same height as you is not that easy to handle.

"Is it okay? Even though you're the one who defeated the Dullahan..." (Amyl)

"It's fine. When you become a knight, you need to equip this weapon to raise your prestige. With only that weapon, who do you think will have the nerve to make fun of you?" (Est)

Although Amyl keeps on looking between me and the great sword for a while,

he seems to have made up his mind.

“I got it. Then, I will gratefully accept it. Using this sword that you gave me, I swore that I will become an excellent knight.” (Amyl)

He deeply bowed to me when he said that. Lelena also similarly bows beside him. Oh stop it you~. I'm weak to things like this. Don't you feel embarrassed when you express gratitude face to face like that? Now, as I don't want to dwell in such a bad smelling place forever, let's quickly head back above ground.

Our return trip is smooth without comparison. There's no enemy that could fight us directly even if they appeared. Even the Iron Beetle that we encountered again, it's possible for us to cut its armor in two with a single blow.

When I head to the Guild's branch office at the dungeon entrance to report that we defeated the Floor master, it caused quite a commotion. Cheers break out from the adventurers who saw the monster core of the Queen Ant and the Dullahan that we submitted.

“Oi, take a look at that”

“How many gold coins do you think that would sell?

“Those young people are the one defeating the Floor Master? Are you kidding me?”

“No, try checking their level. Even the little girl who’s the lowest exceeds 30.”

“Oi oi, such a small kid and she’s already nearly doubled mine..?”

The eyes of the surroundings are mixed with awe and envy. Claire and the others seems uncomfortable. In times like this, it would get better if you just think of the surrounding people as radish. Talking radish...they’re not that scary.

We got called to the reception desk while I was thinking about something foolish. As they can’t deliver the reward at this place, it seems that we have to go the Guild headquarters at once. When all of us boarded the carriage that the guild had prepared, the guild staff who rode with us explained.

“Although there should be a promotion exam for you guys, your promotions to Gold-Rank has already been decided.” (Staff)

We looked at each other. Amyl and Lelena seems to be really glad. But they seems to hold it in as they can’t make a commotion inside the carriage.

“And then, there’s the matter with Diabell-san and Shallie-chan...” (Staff)

I see. Those two had been taken into the dungeon without registering as an adventurer. Hence they’re not even a Bronze-rank.

“Usually you would register normally from bronze and take the promotion in turns, but registering as a Bronze-rank while already having a title of defeating the Floor Master, it would seem strange from the other adventurer’s perspective. If a person with the power of Gold-rank taking the work of the lower rank, we’ll receive lots of complains.”

As a result, those two would also become Gold-rank just like us. That’s good. Everyone will be the same rank like this. I’m relieved. And then, why would you make us go to the Guild headquarters?

“When an adventurer is promoted to Gold-rank, the plate is given by the head of the Guild without any exceptions. Please don’t worry about it as it won’t be such a formal thing. It’s because the head of the Guild is a good-natured person.”

Then it is good. I’m not really good with things like ceremony or greetings. Despite my worries, the carriage had arrived in front of the Guild. We pass through the adventurers busy sorting and selecting the quest, and was guided to the second floor. When the staff knocks on the door, a beautiful and dignified voice saying “Enter” could be heard from the other side.

Opening the door and meeting my eyes, was a blonde woman sitting on a

chair while handling huge pile of documents. Her hand stopped working once she caught a glimpse at us, standing up from her seat.

“Welcome, fellow adventurers. I welcome you. I’m the Guild master, Luvias.”

[T.N: ルビァス, ru.bi.a.su. Feel free to give better name, as I think none could give worse than my machine, which is Ruby Ass]

The Guild Master is a woman!? That was unexpected. I even thought that it would be a rugged old man for sure... she’s a considerably beautiful woman. As for the age, she should be around 30? Her hair is tied up overhead. Although she looks slim, the place that should go in did goes in, while the place that should go out splendidly goes out. Indeed, nice body.

[T.N: He said “Nice body” in English]

Of course she won’t be in this position just because she’s a beautiful onee-san. In fact, Level 45 appeared when I checked her status. Although her level is above me, to be honest I don’t think I will lose.

Did she notice that I observed her, she just turned her glance at me with a smile.

“Are you Est? I’ve heard the story about you. You’re just an inexperienced Bronze-rank a while ago, then suddenly became a Gold-rank adventurer in no time. Moreover, not only do you have the Floor master Subjugator title, you even had the Immortal Killer title. I doubted my ears when I first heard of it.”

Did she collect the information about me? There's not that much distance from Koper town to the Capital City, did I stand out too much from the baby dragon case and the urgent quest? I shouldn't relax my guard. I don't want to get dragged into troublesome things.

"Such a good youth appearing, I'm proud as the Guild Master. I expect a lot from you from now on."

When she said so, Luvias hands over the Gold-rank plate to us one by one. The purchase amount from the monster cores is 50 gold coins in total. Although I think it's an exception, it might have turned pretty big as we have defeated the Floor Master that rarely appeared.

I hardened my body when I heard her said that, but it seems like that is the end. Eh? I thought for sure she would have ask us to do some kind of quest. Whatever...NOT! One important business still remains. When I told her the story about Amyl entering the government service, Luvias that has returned to her paperwork answered again without any unpleasantness from her face.

"Ah, that one. Since the record from Amyl inquiring about entering the government service is still here, the staff should have already processed it. Since you will surely get the letter of recommendation, work hard as soon as you get the job okay?"

I thanked her as we leave the room. “Work hard as soon as you get the job”? Is it because you will be recommended as knight for sure if you are a Gold rank? When I doubt that, the staff like the last public servant explained.

“For a person aiming to get into government service as a knight, they need the letter of recommendation from the guild~. The interviews as well as the battle exam held at the Knight Quarters at the date and time written here~. Once you pass it, you will clear everything and will enter into government service as a knight~.”

There’s an examination too. Ah, Amyl is already looking pale. Apart from the battle exam, this guy doesn’t seems to be good with interviews. Can’t be helped, shall I train you using the experience of my previous life at the public interview examination?

Chapter 42: Re-Contract of the Two

We head back to town after we received the reward from the guild. The interview date written in the letter of recommendation is three days from now. Let's finish the thing we should do before then.

I divide the 50 gold coins in half, 4 of us gets the half while Amyl gets the other half. It's really hard to convince those two as they keep on saying we should divide them equally.

"It's going to cost a lot to start a new life for two people you know? The reward that we got is still a lot. Just think of it as a wedding present from us."

Since Amyl who's deeply moved at my words is going to embrace me, I promptly put a single punch on his face. He protests while wiping his nosebleed.

"...You...shouldn't we hug each other at such a time?"

"What's there to be happy about with two man hugging each other!"

The other members are looking at me with lukewarm eyes. Why? You're wrong, but I'm not sure what to say...

Since we just returned from the dungeon, today will be a holiday for us. Us four people separated from Amyl and Lelena. We head toward the capital city's contract place for the first time. Right next to the capital city's contract place is the slave market, so I can see slaves of various races and ages put in the cage.

When I inform that I want to re-contract of the slave at the reception desk, a man with a face tattoo just like the time with Claire came out. First I'm going to make a contract for Diabell. When she boldly strips her upper body, a splendid body with wonderful balance came into view.

...It's a wonderful pair of boobs. Although it didn't show properly with her clothes on, she is quite busty isn't she? The shape is pretty too, this could even be considered as a work of art. Thanks to Diabell's brown skin, it added even more to her sex appeal. I keeps on staring at this work of art, as it would be a blasphemy to not examine every part of it, but suddenly my sleeve were pulled from the side.

"Master, looking too much is not good you know." (Claire)

As I started to have some indecent thoughts, I got warned by Claire. Diabell

doesn't seem to mind at all, as she just stood there magnificently. Since she was previously a soldier, she looks a bit manly.

The man with the tattoo touched the slave crest on Diabell's chest with his hand. "That breast is mine!" - is what I almost instantly protest, but I managed to control myself somehow. It's embarrassing as a Gold-rank adventurer. I'll endure it this time if it's just this much.

"Master? Won't blood come out if you keep on gripping your fist like that?"
(Claire)

A foolish question, Claire. But I only tightened my grip more. When I look, Diabell showed a slight painful expression every time the slave crest shines. When the light settled, the slave crest of the same type as Claire was carved on her chest, different from her former slave crest. With this the contract is complete.

"I could tell that with this the master and servant contract with My Lord is established. Please take care of me forever, My Lord." (Diabell)

Diabell said so while smiling at me. You're allowed to be free, so you don't even need to go ahead and be my slave.

Next is Shallie's turn. As she's going to have a hard time living by herself, I plan to take care of her until she becomes an adult. I'll let her decide by herself

what's she's going to do afterwards. Since other people might occasionally insist on her property rights if she was freed, I decided to re-contract her the same way as Diabell.

“Shallie had done this before. It was terrible and painful.” (Shallie)

Shallie looks like she extremely hates it, she acts like a grade-schooler who hates flu shot. Although I understand her feelings, I'll have you endure it here.

“Shallie, if you behave yourself and endure this, I'll take you to eat something delicious later. I'll even add some cake to it.” (Est)

“Really!? Okay. Shallie will do her best!” (Shallie)

I'm really worried about the future of this kid at the moment. I need to educate her properly so that she would not follow a person she doesn't know.

Shallie takes off her top just like Diabell. Yep. It's a kid's figure. There's no other impressions besides that. The man with the tattoo from a while ago puts his hand on Shallie's slave crest. The slave crest gradually emitted a faint light.

“It hurts~. Master~.” (Shallie)

Shallie is looking here with watery eyes. I instinctively rushed towards her and pats her head. She's still crying, but she seems distracted a bit, as she no longer complains afterwards until the contract is complete.

"We're all matched~."

Shallie who had just finished the contract is laughing with a smile. She seems to be glad to have the same crest as Claire and Diabell. With this all of them are related to me. Next, let's go fix the equipment. For the equipment shop in the capital city, it was several times bigger than the shop in Koper town. Moreover, it's a 3-storied building instead of just 1-storied. It looks a little bit like a department store.

The sign was prepared when I entered the shop. According to it, the first floor is for used weapons and protective gears. The second floor is for the new weapons. Third floor is for the new protective gears. It seems that you can sell yours on the first floor.

For now we need new protective gears for both Diabell and Shallie, also 2 used daggers because they're good at it. We don't have a lot of budget because of Amyl's wedding present.

Both of their gears need to be made of leather just like us. Diabell choose a

red colored leather armor. It seems to be made from Great Red Bear which is a variant species of the Gray Bear. While it has the strength, it is also light. The lightness is important for the back attacker as they won't be able to escape in an emergency if they can't move quickly. This cost 6 gold coins.

Although next is Shallie's armor, this is going to be a bit hard. Anyway, there's no equipment that suits her size. The armor maker would never think that a little girl would be an adventurer too. When the clerk desperately search the warehouse, the leather armor produced in small quantities for the dwarf group in the old days came out.

There's nothing that stands out for the equipment as it is not dyed. However I could sense a little bit of magic power in it. Just like my sword, it would give some kind of abilities, although unknown. This one just cost 1 gold coin as it was just at a stock clearing value. We got lucky.

Next we go to the weapon floor. Some adventurers are taking various weapons and examined them closely. There's no soldier nor merchants among them. Is it only for private use and not for investment? Anyway, the business looks good.

For Diabell's weapon, a dagger is no good, and the long sword is no good either. It's a sword of average length. It's a sword that doesn't have any decorations at all, a boorish sword without any characteristics. However, it had a stable center of gravity as well as being able to swing it easily. It's a simple but wonderful sword. Is this made by a skilled craftsman somewhere? I decided to buy it as Diabell seems to like it. 5 gold coins.

Next is Shallie. In size, dagger for us will become a long sword for Shallie. Therefore, at first I chose the weapon that is easy for her to use. She chose a short sword. It's a sword slightly bigger than a knife. She chose two of them, dual-wield style.

At first I worried whether she could handle it, but she could handle them pretty well as her affinity is good. Her movement doesn't seem to be slower than the time when she used the dagger. Let's buy these. But still, she had an unexpected talent for dual-wield. This child might become a master swordsman that will leave her name in the history in the future. Although it was 2 gold and 8 silver coins for one, as the clerk admired Shallie who showed her splendid skill, I managed to get 2 of them at 5 gold coins.

Next is for Claire and me. I take out the leather armor with hole for repair, and decided to buy a new armor as I could now equip iron breastplate. The shield could still be used without any trouble, but the sword had become a little bit dull and need some sharpening.

Since Claire was hardly injured, her armor doesn't need to be repaired. The bowstring is replaced with a new one, and I also bought a few bundles of arrows with a slightly better arrowheads than the one used so far. All of these cost 4 gold coins.

Although our funds decreased considerably, it's an amount that we could quickly earned for us who are Gold-rank. Then tomorrow will be the special training for Amyl's interview.

Chapter 43: Interview Training

It seems that there's no one from the village that Amyl and Lelena lives in had any experience working outside. It's either doing the family business or helping around the house, which according to my standard is something like a half-NEET from my previous life. Since it is said that to enter the Knight Corps required both social standing and fighting power, it's important that he hardens his mind and practice right now.

I carry the table which I asked to borrow from the hotel bar below, and create a small interview space. Diabell dressed like an interview official and sits next to me. Claire is standing on the entrance side, being in charge of bringing tea. Lelena and Shallie are playing house on the bed.

And thus, Amyl's interview training begins. With a knock on the door, the door was opened without waiting for an answer.

"Okay, disqualified." (Est)

"Eh!?" (Amyl)

I really don't know whether this guy is useless or not. What are you doing immediately opening the door like that? I point it out and ask him to start again. Again, the door is knocked. Good, he didn't open it immediately this time.

"Alright. Please enter." (Est)

"Excuse me." (Amyl)

Amyl bows and enters the room. Good, you seem to learn something. Amyl closed the door and came in front of the table and sit on the chair. I quickly threw the tiniest fireball.

"Hot! What are you doing!?" (Amyl)

"That's my line you fool! How many times have I said not to sit down until I said so!?" (Est)

He ignores me while mumbling something. Let's redo from the sitting. This is the whip of love.

"When you sit on the chair, say "thank you in advance for today". Then you can proceed." (Est)

“Y-yes.” (Amyl)

I look at Amyl’s simple resume that consist of experience and record of qualifications. His handwriting is messy...I guess? Although I can read the character of this world, I’m not sure I could differentiate between the ugly one and the good one.

“Erm, Amyl-kun right? 18 years old huh, so young~.” (Est)

“Didn’t you already know that...no, its nothing.” (Amyl)

He became silent after I glared at him. Whispering is strictly prohibited during training. If you keeps on prattling like that I give you a weird nickname. From now on you’re the Smiling Adventurer. Want me to shove a doughnut into that mouth?

[T.N: Sorry, it should be a reference to something, but I have no idea what it is. Either Smiling Adventurer or Laughing Adventurer.]

“There’s no working experience aside from helping with the family business huh...? You, what have you been doing until this year?” (Est)

I make a posture of fixing my glasses although I’m not wearing any. It’s the posture that’s important.

“Eh? Well I’m just working as adventurer...” (Amyl)

“That can’t really be called as working. Not to mention becoming an adventurer with a girl and being together with your childhood friend until marriage...are you shitting with me you Raijuu!?” (Est)

“R-ria...what?” (Amyl)

“My Lord, this has just become and envy grumbles.” (Diabell)

[T.N: If you have no idea what Raijuu mean but still managed to find my site and this novel, start questioning your existence.]

Oops, not good. My true intentions had unintentionally leaked. My flame of envy is nothing new concerning Amyl’s circumstances. Even in my previous life I had no one to be called as childhood friend. So jealous so jealous so jealous.

“Amyl-dono, why did you want to join the Knight Corps?” (Diabell)

Diabell changed with me and ask the question that I want to hear. As expected of my secretary. How precise. There might not even be a need for me to be here.

“That’s right. Although my life is one of the reasons, I want to protect the people who live in this country. The village where I lived was poor and always troubled with the monster’s attacks. However the knight from the garrison town nearby saved us every time. I want to be the one to help them this time. That is my main reason.” (Amyl)

Ooh, some proper answer came. Since its Amyl, it’s impossible for him to tell a lie. In other words, it’s his real intentions without any hidden motive. I’m not sure whether to say he’s honest or naive. It’s easy to be amazed in front of such a guy.

“Is that so, understood. Let’s end this with that question.” (Diabell)

“Thank you for today.” (Amyl)

Amyl bows and leaves the room. Well, it’s a passing mark somehow. It’s not good, but it’s not bad either. Since I can see his enthusiasm, it’s likely that it will go well with the real thing.

Then next is the combat training that he’s been waiting for. Since I’ve never sparred with Amyl before, I wanted to fight with him once. We both held a

sword at the inn's backyard. Amyl is using the great sword that we got from the Dullahan the other day. I can't be careless.

"This is the first time that I fight against Est." (Amyl)

"Oh? Am I not good enough as a sparring partner?" (Est)

"Although I'm not sure if I'm good enough as your sparring partner, I'll go do my very best." (Amyl)

It won't really be a match if you compare Amyl's and my status. However for a victory or defeat in a fight, the person with superior status won't necessarily win. I have proven that against the Dullahan the other day.

I directly receive Amyl's strike with my shield. Although he's trying to overpower me until his face turns red, my arm doesn't budge an inch. I just push it back with my shield and greatly breaks his posture. I drove my sword nonstop.

Although he managed to defend against them, there's too much of a difference in speed between Amyl and me. He received a single blow from the place where he can't avoid, causing his sword to be flicked in the air.

"I-I lost." (Amyl)

Amyl suppressed his hand that had become numb with a mortifying expression. Do you think this is over? We're just starting.

"What are you doing? Quickly pick up your sword. We'll continue until you can land one hit on me." (Est)

Amyl who heard that is smiling wryly with tears in his eyes, trying to hold his sword again. Although we keep on sparring nonstop from morning till evening, he can't even land a single hit on me. However, he could hold on longer every time we repeat the spar, until finally, where even if I say it's not a draw, he had become pretty skillful to handle something quickly.

I throw a wet towel towards Amyl who's lying on the ground breathing roughly.

"Seriously, you don't hold back at all. How much of my mind do you want to break?" (Amyl)

"...you're regretting it?" (Est)

"No, it's the opposite. If I could hold on against you, I won't be defeated against anyone in this neighborhood. It seems that I'll be able to do well with the real thing." (Amyl)

"Then it's good." (Est)

It seems that he had gained some confidence somehow. Lets pray that today's training won't end up in waste. I can do nothing about the real thing tomorrow aside from betting whether he will be laughing or crying.

Chapter 44: Examination Day

On the day of the examination, Amyl is facing the barracks for the Capital City's Knight Corps. Showing the letter of recommendation at the gate entrance, we proceed through the gate.

That's right, 'We'. Amyl, Lelena and me, as well as four of the guild staffs. If you ask why we're also there with Amyl, the reason is that the guild staff is sent by the guild to see if there is any injustice from the kingdom side. And as for Lelena and me, it's because the people who take the test can bring two people with them during the exam.

That is because it seems that before this there's an adventurer who got extremely tense and unable to show his true ability, so this is something like a countermeasure. Since the disqualified adventurer played an active part afterwards in an organization, the kingdom side really don't want to miss that kind of human resources again. It's a kind of system that we're thankful for.

Although it seems that generally all the knight seems to be stationed at the castle, that was a wrong perception. The defense of the town and the castle gate are the job of the soldiers, and rarely a knight does it. The knight is given the right to order for the soldiers, as it is likely that the knight could move a

platoon of soldiers when it became a war. If you compare it to Japan's Self Defense Force, a knight is like an Official Cadet. I guess the soldier is like a general Cadet?

[T.N: Can't really make a good one for the JSDF comparison. The knight one is “幹部候補生” which I think might be correct. But I'm not really sure about the soldier, which is “一般曹候補生”.]

Naturally, their positions are high, as you can rarely see one of them passing by. According to the guild staff that came with us, the successful applicant for Gold-rank adventurers is about 40%. It seems to be quite difficult.

When I visit the barracks, a stern ossan came out, and another one short and chubby ossan also came out, as it seems that these 2 are the examiner. First would be the interview and a simple written test. According to the guild staff, the details of the test are the calculation problem as well as general transaction, and an essay afterwards. I don't know how much of Amy's head would be useful, as it doesn't seem like he will make a mistake in an easy addition and subtraction, he should be fine.

[T.N: Ossan is referred to the old man around their 40s. Can't really call them old man, so I'm sticking with that.]

After a while, Amyl returns with the ossan. His expression is tense. Did it not go well?

“The test is so-so. The interview however...” (Amyl)

I wonder if he managed to say some unpleasant things? But he need to endure it here. When I head to the training ground that is next to the barracks, the stern ossan throw a training sword to Amyl.

“Now, shall we have you show your skills?” (Captain)

“Wait a minute, Captain! You don’t need to go out of the way yourself just for him. A boy of this degree, I could have handled him easily.”

That bearded ossan... it seems that he’s the knight’s Captain. The plump one objects the decision of the Knight Captain. When I confirm his status, the knight leader is level 48. The plump shorty is level 20. Amyl only slightly concerned, just where do he get that confidence from, I wonder?

“However, Vice-Captain. An opponent with the skills of this young person will be difficult for you.” (Captain)

“There’s no way that’s possible! To be a Gold-rank while still that young, he should have done some shady things. I’m sure he just follow other person at the back getting all the benefits.” (Vice-Captain)

I’m offended. What is this fatty saying? Did you know that Amyl is our main force? He is way stronger than you many times over.

[T.N: The vice-captain is always referred as plump and short most of the time, but as that is annoying to use every time, I'll just use fatty. Sucks to be you, vice-captain.]

“If you say it like that, I'll let you handle him first. I'll go afterwards.” (Captain)

The fatty take over once the Captain said that. Will the fatty go first? I wonder how many seconds he could last? Amyl silently sets up his sword. He seems a little tense, but there's no hardness in his movements. It's okay.

“Begin!” (Captain)

Once the Knight Captain gives the go signal, the fatty starts charging towards Amyl. when he slowly approach with loud sound, he swings his sword towards Amyl. Amyl seems to have no intention of avoiding it, as he just swings a single slash with a yell from his stomach. The fatty's sword then parted with it's owner, as it pierced the ground slightly further away.

“Match over!” (Captain)

Around 5 seconds I guess? Actually, the time that they really fight is just 1 second. It seems that the fatty can't accept the reality, as he muttered

something while looking at both hands that had lost the weapon.

“Impossible...to me, so easily...I’m sure he had cheated somehow...” (Vice-Captain Fatty)

You can still say things like that after seeing that yourself? For a guy that gives priority to his desire over facts to be the vice-captain, will the Knight Corps be alright? Pushing the objecting vice-captain aside, it seems that this time the Knight Captain will be the one against Amyl.

“A youth with such wonderful skill. I can’t hold back here.” (Captain)

To the Knight Captain that is level 48, it’s definitely higher than the level 39 Amyl. but the winning rate is not zero. He’s trained so many times with me, you shouldn’t give up, Amyl.

“The preparation is done. Come at me any time!” (Captain)

As he steeled himself, Amyl closed in on the Knight Captain. He greatly swings his sword with a right timing. He’s using the Bamboo Splitter he’s so proud of right from the start. Amyl swung down his sword with intense force, as the Knight Captain twist his body and exchange the blow. And then towards the

Amyl's side that is full of openings, he sends a single sharp blow.

Using the force of the swung down sword, Amyl do a somersault as it is to avoid the attack. However, the Knight Captain pursued the attack. The first strike to head is avoided, the second strike is warded off with his sword, and he prevented the third strike by hurling himself towards the Knight Captain.

“Not bad! There's no one here in the Knight Corps that can do that.” (Captain)

Although the Knight Captain praises Amyl joyfully, Amyl has no leeway to answer. Attacks from the Knight Captain came without giving him any chance to breathe, as it seems like he's looking for a chance to counterattack with a desperate look.

And then, the Knight Captain's attack pattern changed. The attacks start getting faster, as he starts aiming towards the parts of Amyl where his defense is thin. This ossan is quite skillful. It's like he's a different person now.

Although Amyl got puzzled by the sudden change of the attack pattern, on the contrary, he thinks that it was a chance. While the Knight Captain could see that it was a trap, he was going to accept all of it with all of his power.

Amyl swung down his sword, and it seems that it managed to scratched into the Knight Captain's trunk. However at the next moment, the Knight Captain's sword came from below and deflect Amyl's sword, and then the sword was

pointed at the scruff of Amyl's neck in an instant. With this the match is over.

"...it's my lost." (Amyl)

Amyl seems to have a mortifying expression. He must have think that with this he had failed his exam. But I wonder about that? There's no condition that said you need to win against the Knight Captain to pass the test.

"You pass, Amyl-kun. No, Amyl! From today onwards you are a member of the Knight Corps." (Captain)

Amyl is surprised that he had an expression like a pigeon getting shot by a peashooter. Lelena is also surprised as she covers her mouth with her hands. As for me, there's no need to be surprised. There's no way that they would refuse a man that could defeat the vice-captain with a single blow.

"I did it! I did it Lelena! Did you see how I did it just now!?" (Amyl)

"Yes, yes... I saw it properly." (Lelena)

Amyl rushed up to Lelena and lifted her. Lelena is deeply moved and shed

tears. Isn't it great, both of you? Their hardships till here are rewarded. You should savor the joy now. Let's make a feast tonight. It's going to be my treat!

Although the Knight Captain is looking at the two with pleased eyes, he suddenly glanced at me.

"You who's the observer, you look like you have a considerable skill too. Even the level is also near Amyl, wanna try sparring with me once? (Captain)

...This ossan is saying some troublesome thing. How to decline this...

Chapter 45: Parting

“Even if you said have a match, I’m just an observer, so...” (Est)

“That’s right, Captain. The guild’s side can’t accept this.” (Staff)

Although the guild staff and I protest about it together, the Knight Captain just treat it like a passing wind.

“Well, it’s fine right? It’s just playing around. You won’t receive my heavy attack.” (Captain)

This is annoying. Although I could easily refuse here, as there’s a chance that he will act stingy and null the position that Amyl had won with great pain, should I accept it even if it’s troublesome? Since Amyl looks uneasy while he looks at me, I just wave my hand like it’s nothing. It’s alright, as I’ll end this properly.

I received the sword that Amyl used, I took some distance and faced the Knight Captain. What an intimidating aura. Just by looking I understood that

he's a master of the sword. Its to the point that even looking at his eyes makes me cowers a bit. I wonder if he realized my intentions, the Knight Captain is smiling from ear to ear.

"Although I say that, I guess I can't go easy on you huh?" (Captain)

...He's seen through me. I guess its true when people said wisdom comes with age. Then I could do nothing but steel myself and go all out. Since the opponent might have seen my level and title, I'm sure he would go all out from the beginning.

"Here I go!" (Captain)

The Knight Captain cut the distance. Although he's quite fast, Claire is faster if you only consider the speed. I avoid the strike with enough room to breath. I could still read the sword if it's just to this degree. The slash keep on coming, but it doesn't even graze me. The Knight Captain had a surprised expression on, and then jump backward to keep some distance.

"For my attacks to not even hit...it feels just like when I fight my master."
(Captain)

For there to be someone being a master for the Knight Captain who's already of age, that person should be older right? I'm sure it's someone like a sage. I really don't want to think about fighting that guy. Whoops, not good. Let's concentrate on the fight for now.

"Haah!" (Captain)

The Captain gripped his sword and once again charged to cut the distance. Isn't this the same move he used on Amyl a while ago? However, it won't work as I've already seen it once. The sword that came from above momentarily stop, as it suddenly turn slashing from the right side. However, as I've already read the pattern of the sword, I just stab at the Knight Captain, aiming for his shoulder. I guess I should start attacking now.

Although the Knight Captain tried to avoid the stab by twisting his body, he can't completely avoid it. My sword slides down his armor, as the unpleasant sound of metal rubbing against metal could be heard. Although the Captain tried to parry my attacks aiming for his head, every slash that he received sank into his shoulder armor from the overwhelming difference in power.

"Guuh!" (Captain)

I thought for sure this would end the match, but the Knight Captain's eyes

said this is not over yet. Let's continue then. There's no need to hesitate. I raised my sword, then then swing it in a flash from the side. Knight Captain tried to parry it with his sword, but this single slash contains all of my current power. The sword reached a speed that can't be captured by his eyes, cutting the parrying sword in two.

The sword is cut clean in in two, as the top part spin around and pierced the ground. Amyl and the other get closer to Knight Captain to see it too. Did I go a bit overboard?

"...Unbelievable. To have that much skill. For even me to be having a hard time, just who on earth are you?" (Captain)

"Est, you...did you get stronger? This is entirely different from the time during our training." (Amyl)

That's because the training is to develop you. Not to mention, I can't do something like crushing the examinee right before the examination.

"Match...over." (Captain)

I unsheathe my sword and bows. Then, the Knight Captain approached me while grabbing both of my shoulders trying to recruit me.

“You! How about it, wanna join the Knight Corps together with Amyl!? With someone of a skill like you, you will definitely catch the King’s attentions immediately.” (Captain)

“Captain! Do you know what you’re saying!? No matter how skillful he is, he’s a commoner who we have no idea where he even came from...” (Vice Captain)

“However, to let such a skillful person lay hidden like this, don’t you think it’s going to be such a lost for us? Right here no matter what...” (Captain)

Although the Captain and Vice Captain is quarreling excitedly, I don’t pay any attention to them. In my previous life I’ve been doing the same thing over and over again every day. The company works are too much. There’s no way I’m going to part with my current carefree life.

“Although I’m grateful for the invitation, I will have to decline. That’s because an adventurer’s life fits my nature more.” (Est)

“I see...too bad. However, please tell me anytime if you change your mind. I will always welcome you.” (Captain)

[T.N: Author didn’t even bother trying to think of a name for you, so I guess that’s never going to happen.]

Although the Knight Captain looks disappointed, Vice Captain had a relieved

expression instead. Judging from his speech and behavior from a while ago, there seems to be some faction existing. I don't think Amyl will have a hard time though. Anyway, let's end it here. Although there's some trouble, let's celebrate Amy's wish of entering government service becoming true.

We who had returned to the inn immediately started the feast. I ask the old man managing the inn to keep on bringing the expensive food. I fill my mouth with each of the dish that keeps on coming. I fill my stomach with the delicious liquor. When I treats the other guests who looked at us downing the liquor, the inn's dining room turns into a place full of drunk people singing and making a fuss.

Laughter fill up the room whenever someone sing with an off-key, as I made merry with an ossan I didn't know and start dancing together. Is this one of the hidden cause of MP reduction? Shallie who's being carried by Claire seems to have already fallen asleep. They have already returned to the second floor. Diabell keeps on filling her stomach with the incoming food one after another. She's a big eater despite her appearance. Everybody seems to be enjoying this in their own ways somehow.

Meanwhile, Amyl and Lelena with their face red because of the liquor came over near me. Since they look slightly serious, I could roughly guess what this is going to be about. Its finally time to part with these two. I pour some water into the glass, and faced the two.

“Est, for us to be able to come here, it is all thanks to you. Thank you.” (Amyl)

“We’re really grateful for what you have done. If we never met you, we would probably still be Bronze-rank right now, and we might even gave up being adventurers and return back to the country.” (Lelena)

I just shakes my head to deny it. No matter how you look at it, you’re overestimating me too much. I am not that great of a man. No matter how much my strength increased, what is inside is just a small man who treasures his family and friends.

“It was only by chance. As for being able to reach Gold and become a knight, both of it are from the efforts of you two. You should stick out your chest more.” (Est)

Since Amyl decided to enter the service starting tomorrow, he could only make merry tonight. As I’m not to fond of moist atmosphere like this, I told the two that this feast tonight would be the goodbye. We will leave the Capital City tomorrow and head to another town. Therefore, I will not be able to meet Amyl again for the time being.

I solidly clasp the two hand held out, having a firm handshake for three people. Those two seems to shed tears when they look at me. Even I seems to have almost cried unconsciously.

“See you later then. Do you best, Amyl! As for Lelena, so that this idiot won’t make a blunder, make sure to watch over him! If both of you put some efforts together, no matter how difficult it is, you should be able to overcome it. Just like the time we defeat the Floor Master!” (Est)

“Yeah, Give it your all too, Est! If there’s anything that I can do, I’ll lend my power anytime!” (Amyl)

“You don’t have to worry about Amyl. I’ll look after him properly. Therefore, please go out and travel in peace!” (Lelena)

Yeah, it’s a promise. The next time we meet, each of us should be way greater than now. Even if we’re far away, they should be able to hear news about me if I do some active part. Therefore, look forward to it, my good friends.